

For immediate release

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## **St. Joseph and St. Mary's Medical Centers Earn Chest Pain Accreditation**

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*Kansas City, Mo.* – The Carondelet Heart Institute announces both its acute care hospital sites, St. Joseph and St. Mary's Medical Centers have earned Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. The medical centers undertook rigorous evaluation and refinement of heart care processes in order to integrate the industry's best practices into their cardiac care services. The accreditation shows St. Joseph and St. Mary's work seamlessly with area Emergency Medical Services to ensure patients receive the treatment they need during the critical early stages of a heart attack.

As Accredited Chest Pain Centers, the hospitals have shown that patients coming to the Emergency Departments with chest pain or discomfort are given the immediate treatment necessary to avoid as much heart damage as possible. Protocol-based procedures developed by leading experts in cardiac care are part of the Carondelet Heart Institute's cardiac care services.

"This accreditation further demonstrates our dedication to excellence and quality care for our patients," says David Ireland, CEO, Carondelet Heart Institute. "It shows that when patients come to the Carondelet Heart Institute at St. Joseph and St. Mary's they can trust us to provide the best possible outcomes in heart care."

"Heart disease remains the number one killer of Americans," says Ireland. "People tend to wait when they think they might be having a heart attack and that's a mistake. The average person arrives in the ED more than two hours after the onset of symptoms, but what they don't know is that the sooner a heart attack is treated, the less damage to the heart and the better the outcome."

Heart attack warning signs:

- Chest discomfort—pressure, squeezing or pain; lasting more than a few minutes, or comes and goes
- Discomfort or pain in the upper body—in one or both arms, the back, neck jaw or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Cold sweat
- Nausea or lightheadedness.

*Carondelet Health consists of St. Mary's Medical Center, St. Joseph Medical Center, three long-term care facilities and home care services. Carondelet Health is dedicated to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Our commitment to human dignity compels us to provide compassionate, quality healthcare for body, mind and spirit, with a special concern for the poor. We are responsible stewards serving the needs of all people from conception to death. Carondelet Health is a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system.*