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News Release

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University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center Honored with Mission: Lifeline Quality Achievement Award

ELYRIA – University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center has received the Mission: Lifeline® Silver Plus Receiving Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

Each year in the United States, approximately 250,000 people have a STEMI, or ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (heart attack) caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to immediately restore blood flow, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication. The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program helps hospitals, emergency medical services and communities improve response times so people who suffer from a STEMI receive prompt, appropriate treatment. The program's goal is to streamline systems of care to quickly get heart attack patients from the first 9-1-1 call to hospital treatment.

"UH Elyria Medical Center is dedicated to continually improving the quality of care for our patients who suffer a heart attack, and the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program is helping us accomplish that goal through internationally respected clinical guidelines," said Donald Sheldon, MD, President of UH Elyria Medical Center. "We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in cardiac care, and I am very proud of our team."

For more than four decades, UH Elyria Medical Center has been on the forefront of high quality cardiac care in Lorain County. The cardiovascular services program in Elyria has received numerous awards and national recognition, and continues to add services now that it is part of University Hospitals with access to the prestigious UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute. "Our participation in the Mission: Lifeline program reinforces our commitment to providing the highest quality cardiac care," said Don Schiffbauer, Director of Cardiovascular, Emergency, and Perioperative Services at UH Elyria. "Combining our rich history of exceptional cardiac care with some of the country's foremost experts in cardiovascular medicine through our access to UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute only serves to further enhance our quality and most importantly, the outcomes of our patients."

About University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center

Founded in 1908, University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center is a 387-licensed bed hospital system with additional campuses in Amherst (University Hospitals Amherst Health Center), Avon (University Hospitals Avon Health Center) and Sheffield (University Hospitals Sheffield Health Center), along with medical offices in Grafton, North Ridgeville and Westlake. Part of the University Hospitals health system, UH Elyria Medical Center offers patients access to UH Case Medical Center, a nationally recognized academic medical center, as well as programs from internationally recognized centers of excellence such as UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and UH Seidman Cancer Center. UH Elyria Medical Center is one of Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention™ for 3 Years in a Row (2012-2014) and is ranked among the top 5% in the nation for Coronary Interventional Procedures for 2 Years in a Row (2013-2014). In addition, UH Elyria was named a 13-time "NorthCoast 99 Top Employer" by the Employers' Resource Council. For more information, visit www.UHhospitals.org/Elyria

About Mission: Lifeline

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for STEMI patients. The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Foundation clinical treatment guidelines. For more information, visit www.heart.org/missionlifeline and www.heart.org/quality.

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