



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 8, 2014

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**Aultman Hospital receives American Heart Association's
Mission: Lifeline Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award**

CANTON, Ohio (Sept. 8, 2014) – Aultman Hospital has received the Mission: Lifeline[®] Gold 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, caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death or minimize heart damage, 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.

"Aultman Hospital is dedicated to 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 Aultman STEMI Coordinator Ron Manes, BSN, CCRN. "We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in cardiac care, and I am very proud of our team."

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“We commend Aultman for this achievement award, which reflects a significant institutional commitment to improve the quality of care for their heart attack patients,” said A. Gray Ellrodt, MD, Chair of the Mission: Lifeline committee and Chief of Medicine at the Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Mass. “All too many heart attack patients in the United States still fail to receive appropriate treatment for their life-threatening condition within the recommended timeframes. We must all continue this important work to streamline and coordinate regional systems of care to save lives and prevent complications.”

Aultman earned the award by meeting specific criteria and standards of performance for the quick and appropriate treatment of STEMI patients to open the blocked artery. Before patients are discharged, they are started on aggressive risk reduction therapies such as cholesterol-lowering drugs, aspirin, ACE inhibitors and beta-blockers, and they receive smoking cessation counseling if needed. Eligible hospitals must adhere to these measures at a set level for a designated period to receive the awards.

About Aultman

Aultman Health Foundation is a not-for-profit health care organization serving Stark and surrounding counties. The vertically integrated institution includes Aultman Hospital, Aultman Orrville Hospital, the locally managed health-insurance provider AultCare and the Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences. With 808 beds, 535 active physicians and a staff of nearly 5,000 employees, Aultman is Stark County’s largest hospital and employer. For more information, visit www.aultman.org.

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 heart.org/missionlifeline and heart.org/quality.

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