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## **News Release**

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

ELYRIA, OH – University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center has received the Mission: Lifeline® Gold 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, 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's goal is to reduce system barriers to prompt treatment for heart attacks, beginning with the 9-1-1 call and continuing through hospital treatment.

“We are dedicated to providing the highest quality of care for our patients who suffer a heart attack,” said Don Schiffbauer, Director, Cardiovascular, Emergency Care and Perioperative Services at UH Elyria Medical Center. “Following the nationally -respected clinical guidelines outlined by the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program ensures that we are meeting and exceeding our goals.”

An example of UH Elyria's high quality of care is what is referred to as “door-to-balloon time,” which is defined as the period of time from the moment the patient enters the hospital to the moment blood flow is restored to the blocked blood vessel. The national door-to-balloon time goal is less than 90 minutes. At UH Elyria Medical Center, the average door to balloon time is just 44 minutes. “We are able to exceed the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in national door-to-balloon times due to the commitment of our physicians, clinical staff and our emergency medical services (EMS) colleagues,” said Schiffbauer. “The partnership between the cardiac catheterization lab, emergency department and EMS crews has been critical to successful outcomes for heart attack patients in our community.”

Additionally, UH Elyria Medical Center received the Mission: Lifeline Gold-Plus Award, which recognizes that the hospital has reached an achievement score of 75 percent or greater for treating STEMI transfer patients within 120 minutes. UH Elyria Medical Center earned the award by meeting specific criteria and standards of performance for quick and appropriate treatment of STEMI patients by providing emergency procedures to re-establish blood flow to blocked arteries when needed. Eligible hospitals must adhere to these measures at a set level for a designated period to receive the awards.

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**About University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center**

Founded in 1908, University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center is a 387-licensed bed hospital with additional campuses in Amherst (UH Amherst Health Center), Avon (UH Avon Health Center) and Sheffield (UH 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 received the American College of Cardiology's NCDR ACTION Registry – GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2014; one of only 256 hospitals in the nation to receive this designation. For more information, visit [www.UHElyria.org](http://www.UHElyria.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](http://heart.org/missionlifeline) and [heart.com/quality](http://heart.com/quality).

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