

For Immediate Release



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Stormont-Vail HealthCare Receives Heart Failure Accreditation

(Topeka, Kan., July 13, 2010) Stormont-Vail HealthCare announces that it has received Heart Failure Accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC), an international organization dedicated to eliminating heart disease as the number one cause of death worldwide.

Heart Failure Accreditation is promoted by the Society as an Operational Model for patients across the heart failure continuum with specific emphasis on the care of the Acutely Decompensated Heart Failure (ADHF) patient. The process of care begins with the onset of the patient's symptoms, and includes engagement of Emergency Dispatch Services, Emergency Medical Services or direct presentation to the hospital. The care process continues with initial assessment and early risk stratification, expedited treatment, subsequent discharge from the Emergency Department, admission to an observation unit or inpatient status, and ultimately discharge from the facility into the community. Within this model, facilities can plan and organize the delivery of care in a systematic manner conducive to a process improvement and patient safety approach. Heart Failure Accreditation was developed using the principles of improvement science that are widely known and employed successfully in many areas.

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To earn accreditation as a Heart Failure facility, Stormont-Vail needed to exceed a set of stringent criteria and an on-site evaluation by a review team from the SCPC. The ten areas that were reviewed by the evaluating team includes:

- Emergency Department Integration with Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Assessment of Patients with symptoms of Acute Decompensated Heart Failure
- Risk Stratification of the heart failure patient
- Treatment for patients presenting to the Emergency Department in acute heart failure
- Acute heart failure discharge criteria from the Emergency Department, observation stay or inpatient stay
- Acute heart failure patient education in the Emergency Department, observation and inpatient unit
- Personnel, competencies and training
- Process improvement
- Organizational structure and commitment
- Heart failure community outreach

Stormont-Vail HealthCare is the only facility in Kansas to have achieved this designation and is one of a very small number nation-wide. To learn more about the heart failure accreditation, visit:

<http://www.scpcp.org/dnn/Accreditation/MapofAccreditedFacilities/tabid/330/Default.aspx>

About Stormont-Vail HealthCare

Stormont-Vail HealthCare is an integrated health care system that has been serving the health care needs of northeast Kansas for more than 125 years. It is comprised of Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center, a 586-bed acute care hospital, and the Cotton-O'Neil Clinic, a multi-specialty physician group with more than 191 physicians. More than 4,000 employees provide care and support services for patients in the hospital and 27 other locations, including the Cotton-O'Neil Heart Center, Cancer Center, Diabetes and Endocrinology Center, Digestive Health Center, the Pediatric Care clinic and multiple

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regional primary care clinics. Stormont-Vail HealthCare is committed to its mission of improving the health of the community by providing high quality, compassionate care with state-of-the-art equipment in convenient, comfortable facilities for patients and families.

About the Society of Chest Pain Centers

Established in 1998, SCPC is a patient-centric nonprofit international organization focused on improving care for patients with heart disease. Central to SCPC's mission is the question, "What is right for the patient?" In response, SCPC promotes protocol-based medicine, often delivered through a chest pain center model, to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndrome and heart failure and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, SCPC provides accreditation and education to facilities striving for optimum cardiac care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. For more information on SCPC and accreditation opportunities, visit www.scpcp.org, or call toll free 1 (877) 271-4176.

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Stormont-Vail HealthCare Achieves New Status as Accredited Chest Pain Center

(Topeka, Kan., July 13, 2010) Stormont-Vail HealthCare announces that it has received accreditation in Chest Pain and Heart Failure from the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC), an international organization dedicated to eliminating heart disease as the number one cause of death worldwide.

Hospitals that have received SCPC accreditation have achieved a higher level of expertise in dealing with patients who arrive with symptoms of a heart attack. They emphasize the importance of standardized diagnostic and treatment programs that provide more efficient and effective evaluation as well as more appropriate and rapid treatment of patients with chest pain and other heart attack symptoms. They also serve as a point of entry into the health care system to evaluate and treat other medical problems, and they help to promote a healthier lifestyle in an attempt to reduce the risk factors for heart attack.

“The chest pain accreditation is a result of the integration of the best practices and the newest standards into our cardiac care processes. It ensures that patients who come to Stormont-Vail experiencing chest pain or discomfort are provided with the immediate treatment,” said Maynard Oliverius, President and CEO, Stormont-Vail HealthCare. “Protocol-based procedures developed by leading experts in cardiac care

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to reduce time for treatment in the critical early stages of a heart attack have always been at the forefront of Stormont-Vail's overall cardiac care service,” added Oliverius.

To become accredited as a Chest Pain Center, Stormont-Vail and its multi-disciplinary team of highly skilled health professionals engaged in a rigorous evaluation by SCPC for its ability to assess, diagnose, and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack. To the community served by Stormont-Vail, this means that processes are in place that meet strict criteria aimed at:

- Reducing the time from onset of symptoms to diagnosis and treatment
- Treating patients more quickly during the critical window of time when the integrity of the heart muscle can be preserved
- Monitoring patients when it is not certain that they are having a heart attack to ensure that they are not sent home too quickly or needlessly admitted to the hospital

Stormont-Vail HealthCare’s state-of-the-art chest pain program encompasses the entire continuum of care for the heart patient and includes such focal points as dispatch, Emergency Medical System, Emergency Department, Cath Lab, Stormont-Vail quality assurance plan, and Cotton-O’Neil Heart Center’s community outreach program. By becoming an Accredited Chest Pain Center, Stormont-Vail has enhanced the quality of care for the cardiac patient and has demonstrated its commitment to higher standards.

“People tend to wait when they think they might be having a heart attack, and that’s a mistake,” states Lambert Wu, M.D., FACP, FACC, cardiologist at the Cotton-O’Neil Heart Center and medical director for Acute Coronary Services at Stormont-Vail HealthCare. “The average patient arrives in the emergency department more than two hours after the onset of symptoms, but what they don’t realize is that the sooner a heart attack is treated, the less damage there is to the heart, and the potential for an improved outcome for the patient.”

A diverse team of physicians and clinicians at Stormont-Vail are continuously working to improve their door-to-balloon times (DTBT), which are considerably below the

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national average. For example, the national average for DTBT is 62 minutes. In May 2010, the average DTBT at Stormont-Vail was 48 minutes.

To learn more about Stormont-Vail HealthCare and its most recent accreditation, visit www.stormontvail.org.

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