

# NEWS RELEASE

Heart Hospital of New Mexico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Heart Hospital of New Mexico Receives Chest Pain Center Accreditation*

**Albuquerque, NM - September 11, 2008** Heart Hospital of New Mexico received full Cycle II accreditation with PCI from the Accreditation Review Committee on August 13, 2008. Accreditation expires August 12, 2011. "We are on the leading edge of cardiac care in the state, which is further reinforced by this accreditation," stated Dr. Robert McDevitt, HHNM Emergency Department Medical Director and Chief of Medicine.

Ron Winger, President and CEO of the Heart Hospital of New Mexico, states "This accreditation is a reflection of the hospital's commitment to be the leader in improving cardiac care to the communities we serve."

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. The goal of the Society of Chest Pain Centers is to significantly reduce the mortality rate of these patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to the early symptoms of a possible heart attack, reduce the time that it takes to receive treatment, and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

The Chest Pain Center's protocol driven and systematic approach to patient management allows physicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack, when treatments are most effective, and to better

monitor patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event. Such observation helps ensure that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

With the rise of Chest Pain Centers came the need to establish standards designed to improve the consistency and quality of care provided to patients. The Society's accreditation process insures centers meet or exceed quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine.

The Chest Pain Center at Heart Hospital of New Mexico has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations by a review team from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Key areas in which a Chest Pain Center must demonstrate expertise include:

- Integrating the emergency department with the local emergency medical system
- Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly
- Effectively treating patients with low risk for acute coronary syndrome and no assignable cause for their symptoms
- Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures
- Ensuring Chest Pain Center personnel competency and training
- Maintaining organizational structure and commitment
- Having a functional design that promotes optimal patient care
- Supporting community outreach programs that educate the public to promptly seek medical care if they display symptoms of a possible heart attack

The Heart Hospital of New Mexico, located on an 8-acre campus near downtown Albuquerque, is an entire medical facility dedicated to fighting heart disease. To learn more about our hospital, please visit [www.hearthospitalnm.com](http://www.hearthospitalnm.com).

The Society of Chest Pain Centers is a patient centric non-profit international professional organization focused upon improving care for patients with acute coronary syndromes and other related maladies. Established in 1998, the Society is dedicated to patient advocacy and focusing on ischemic heart disease. Central to its mission is the question, "What is right for the patient?" In answer, the Society promotes protocol based medicine, often delivered through a Chest Pain Center model to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, the Society of Chest Pain Centers provides accreditation to facilities striving for optimum Chest Pain Center care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

For more information on the Society of Chest Pain Centers visit [www.scpcp.org](http://www.scpcp.org), or contact Robert Lipetz, Executive Director at (614) 442-5950 or [director@scpcp.org](mailto:director@scpcp.org).

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