



# Media Alert

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## **MIEMSS Designates 23 Maryland Hospitals as “Cardiac Interventional Centers”**

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), the State agency responsible for coordinating Maryland’s emergency medical services (EMS) has announced the designation of 23 hospitals as “Cardiac Interventional Centers.” Additionally, MIEMSS has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with three out of state hospitals. The complete list of Cardiac Interventional Centers is shown below.

The designation as a “Cardiac Interventional Center” indicates that a hospital complies with State standards to receive patients transported by EMS who are experiencing the most common type of heart attack called an ST-elevation myocardial infarction, or “STEMI”. A STEMI occurs when an artery that supplies blood to the heart is suddenly blocked. As a result of these designations, effective April 1, 2011, EMS providers who have identified a STEMI patient may transport those patients to the closest designated Cardiac Interventional Center, bypassing non-designated hospitals in accordance with the *Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers*. For these patients, primary percutaneous coronary intervention (pPCI) (also known as “balloon angioplasty”) is recognized by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association as the treatment of choice for STEMI and is generally associated with fewer complications and better outcomes than other forms of treatment.

It has also been well established that the sooner that a patient is treated to relieve the blockage causing the STEMI, the better the heart muscle will recover. It is therefore essential that: (1) patients who experience symptoms of a heart attack call 9-1-1 immediately; (2) EMS providers be able to rapidly identify and transport STEMI patients to designated Cardiac Interventional Centers that perform pPCI or to a hospital that can rapidly assess, otherwise treat, and transfer the patient when indicated; and (3) the Cardiac Interventional Centers be able to rapidly assess the patient and provide pPCI shortly after arrival. Reducing the time from the onset of symptoms to treatment requires that there be a high degree of coordination and integration of care between that provided by EMS providers in the field and that provided by medical staff in the hospital. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain. Symptoms may also include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach, shortness of breath (with or without chest discomfort), sweating, nausea, and lightheadedness. MIEMSS reminds Maryland citizens to act quickly and call 9-1-1 if they are experiencing symptoms of a heart attack.

The designation of Cardiac Interventional Centers and an integrated system of care for STEMI patients in Maryland is consistent with recommendations made in 2007 by the American Heart Association (AHA) when a new program entitled Mission: Lifeline™ was launched to encourage the creation of integrated STEMI systems of care to improve outcomes of STEMI patients, which included recommendations for strategies to increase the number of STEMI patients with timely access to primary PCI. The AHA estimates annually, approximately 400,000 patients experience a STEMI in the United States. In Maryland, it estimated that approximately 5,600 patients experience a STEMI and of those only 50% or less call 9-1-1 and are transported by EMS to a hospital that performs pPCI.

Mission: Lifeline™ is the American Heart Association's national initiative to advance systems of care for STEMI patients. The initiative seeks to reduce mortality and morbidity and improve the overall quality of care for STEMI patients. “There are significant barriers to establishing the ideal STEMI system of care. Changes in policy and delivery of care are required to overcome the obstacles that preclude the delivery of optimal care for all heart attack patients. EMS systems should be the point of entry for all heart attack patients and are extremely critical to reducing delays to STEMI care,” said Dr. Eric M. Aldrich, President of the Board of Trustees for the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate American Heart and Stroke Association. “We commend and applaud MIEMSS leadership in implementing STEMI systems of care through the designations of Cardiac Interventional Centers and the required reporting of data to improve patient quality of care outcomes”.

In developing the designation standards for Cardiac Interventional Centers, MIEMSS worked closely with the Maryland Health Care Commission, American Heart Association, Maryland Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, Maryland hospitals and EMS providers, with the goal of improving care for STEMI patients throughout Maryland. “Maryland’s EMS system continues to be a national model for trauma and emergency care,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “The designation of Cardiac Interventional Centers will complement our statewide system and ensure that Marylanders receive the best treatment possible when it comes to heart attacks and STEMI care.”

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LISTING OF HOSPITALS**

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## **Attached list of Designated Cardiac Interventional Center Hospitals**

### Maryland EMS Region I (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

Western Maryland Regional Medical Center

### Maryland EMS Region II (Washington and Frederick Counties)

Meritus Medical Center

Frederick Memorial Hospital

### Maryland EMS Region III (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties)

Anne Arundel Medical Center

Baltimore Washington Medical Center

Carroll Hospital Center

Franklin Square Hospital Center

Howard County General Hospital

The Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

St. Agnes Hospital

St. Joseph Medical Center

Union Memorial Hospital

University of Maryland Medical Center

Upper Chesapeake Medical Center

### Maryland EMS Region IV (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)

Peninsula Regional Medical Center

### Maryland EMS Region V (Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties)

Holy Cross Hospital

Prince George's Medical Center

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital

Southern Maryland Hospital Center

Suburban Hospital

Washington Adventist Hospital

### Out-of State recognized Cardiac Interventional Center Hospitals

Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C.

Christiana Hospital, Newark, DE

Bayhealth-Kent General Hospital, Dover, DE