



NEWS RELEASE

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St. Luke's Heart recognized by American Heart Association

St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Centers received two major awards from the American Heart Association for the quality of heart care provided by St. Luke's Heart.

The American Heart Association (AHA) awarded St. Luke's with the Get with the Guidelines – Heart Failure Gold Performance Achievement Award and the Mission: Lifeline Bronze Performance Achievement Award.

The two awards recognize St. Luke's for its care of heart failure and heart attack patients at St. Luke's Boise and St. Luke's Meridian Medical Centers.

To receive the Gold Performance Achievement Award, St. Luke's had to maintain an 85 percent compliance rate in the recommended AHA treatment and prevention guidelines for heart failure patients for a minimum of two years. Those guidelines included things like starting patients on aggressive risk reduction therapies while in the hospital and providing referrals for counseling and cardiac rehabilitation before discharge.

To qualify for the Life Bronze Performance Achievement Award, St. Luke's had to demonstrate a higher standard of care that effectively improved the care and survival rates of patients admitted to the hospital the most serious form of a heart attack called the ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction or STEMI.

Every year, almost 400,000 people experience a STEMI type of heart attack.

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In treating a STEMI heart attack it's critical that blood flow be restored quickly to the heart. Unfortunately, a significant number of STEMI patients don't received prompt treatment through procedures such as angioplasty or stent placement in a blood vessel to restore blood flow to the heart.

Hospitals that receive the Mission: Lifeline Bronze Performance Achievement Award have demonstrated for 90 consecutive days that at least 85 percent of eligible STEMI patients are treated within specific time frames upon entering the hospital and discharged following the American Heart Association's recommended treatment guidelines.

National recommendations require that patients suffering a STEMI heart attack have blood flow restored within 90 minutes. St. Luke's Heart averages less than 60 minutes.

St. Luke's has a long history of providing cardiovascular care. In 1968, Dr. Rodney Herr performed Idaho's first open heart surgery at St. Luke's, and today more cardiovascular procedures are performed at St. Luke's than at any other hospital.

For the last two years, St. Luke's Heart has been named one of the top 100 heart programs nationwide, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. To find out more about St. Luke's Heart visit www.stlukesonline.org.