



American  
Heart  
Association.

AN INTEGRATED,  
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO  
**CARE & QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT**

The American Heart Association offers chest  
pain center certification to hospitals to improve  
quality and access to heart care.



**Participation in this certification benefits both the health care facility and patients by implementing standards that reflect decades of science and clinical expertise.**





# WHY CERTIFICATION?

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**Ischemic heart disease is the top cause of death in Saudi Arabia.**

**Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death worldwide. In 2020, approximately 19.1 million people died from CVD, accounting for 32% of global deaths.\***

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Patient outcomes improve when hospitals and healthcare providers follow evidence-based best practices and a framework to structure, manage and deliver high quality patient care. Pursuing a hospital certification is the capstone, building upon the achievements of individual departments and providers to create an integrated and collaborative approach to cardiovascular care.

Offered by the American Heart Association (AHA), the primary and comprehensive Chest Pain Center certification programs focus on acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). Based on standards developed independently this certification program reflects decades of science and clinical expertise.

Single-source certification ensures continuous and effective quality improvement in care, improving outcomes and survival from heart attacks in your community, reducing errors and setting participants apart in a crowded healthcare field.

\* <https://professional.heart.org/guidelines-and-statements>







# OUR COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION


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**Primary or Comprehensive Chest Pain Center certifications are the result of a collaboration between regional health authorities and the American Heart Association, leaders in cardiovascular health.**

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AHA is uniquely positioned to build upon our success translating guidelines into programs and services that shape clinical care and improve outcomes across the globe. Working with local organizations who share the belief that healthcare facility certification has great potential to improve the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of STEMI and Non-STEMI to help people live longer, healthier lives.

Together with local health authorities, organizations and hospital partners, we work to share unbiased, actionable and achievable benchmarks for hospitals and clinical leaders to use to help match standards of performance to guidelines-based best practice in heart attack care.







# INTEGRATING DATA & CARE

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The goal of Primary and Comprehensive Chest Pain Center Certification is to help you improve the health of your community by integrating and elevating acute-STEMI management across prevention, acute and post-discharge care areas in hospitals.

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**Data is at the core of a strong learning health system.**

Whether you use the AHA Get With The Guidelines® registry or another national or international patient care registry as part of this program, data and personnel will be utilized more economically and where they can have the most impact. The resulting information allows your hospital to benchmark against other centers of excellence in the United States and the region. It also offers research and publishing professional development opportunities, positioning your hospital as a leader, and earning trust from patients.

# AN IMPACT AS HIGH AS THE ACHIEVEMENT

Hospitals certified as Primary or Comprehensive Chest Pain Centers can expect:

- Integration of STEMI care delivery across service lines
- Improvement in their population's health with awareness and prevention efforts
- Alignment with best practices in coordinated care to improve efficiency, contributing to improved clinical and financial outcomes
- Better outcomes for STEMI patients using a systemized, evidence-based approach
- Identification of gaps based on observation of trends and patterns to reduce variations in care
- Alignment with industry leaders in cardiovascular care
- Ongoing support and partnership from AHA, an organization both clinicians and consumers recognize and trust







## **PARTNERING WITH YOU AT EVERY STEP**

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**The AHA staff are committed to partnering with every hospital to help achieve the requirements and meet your program goals.**

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From ongoing collaboration with multidisciplinary teams to readiness assessments preparing you for certification review, we will stand with you and mentor you to success.

# LEADERSHIP, LEARNING & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

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**Achieving certification is an important accomplishment.**

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Hospitals that succeed join an elite community of committed healthcare centers driving the national and international conversation about cardiovascular care. From access to educational webinars, invitations to share expertise, the exchange of best practices and the free flow of ideas and feedback, participating hospitals and professionals can expect valuable opportunities to stand apart as leaders.



## PROFESSIONAL TOOLS & EDUCATION

- Provider education and webinars
- Best practices to improve processes, quality indicator scores, patient care and outcomes
- AHA Lifelong Learning Library
- Resource library
- Science journals and guidelines

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

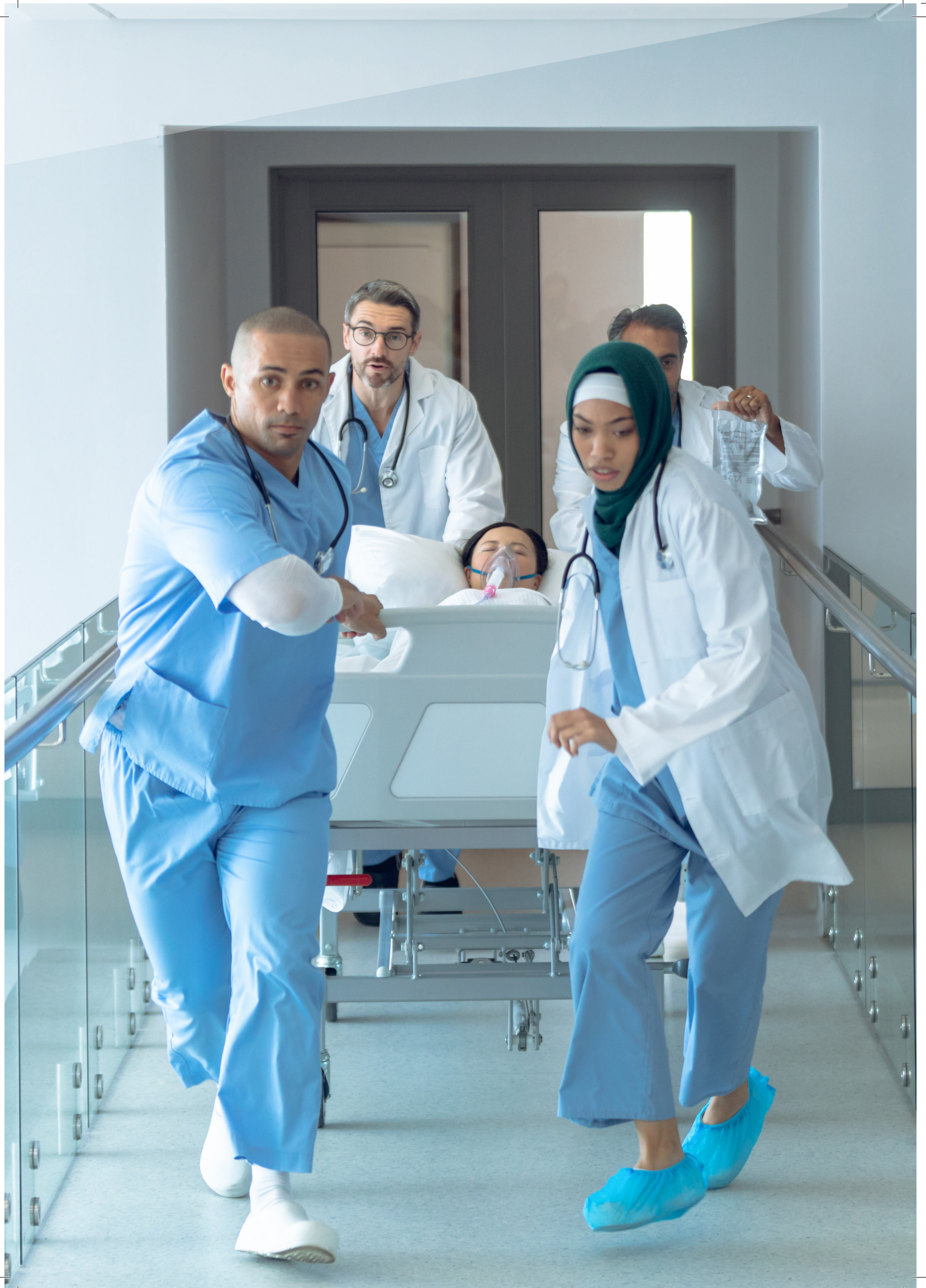
- Participate in a program that helps develop skills and opportunities that build careers
- AHA Professional Membership opportunities
- Research and publication opportunities

## PATIENT EDUCATION & AWARENESS RESOURCES

- Caregiver Guides
- AHA's Support Network
- Signs & Symptoms Resources
- Rehab Toolkit

## NETWORKING & MENTORSHIP

- Access to our online community for certified hospitals
- Support, resources, and access to experts
- National, international networking
- Collaboration and mentorship



# RECOGNITION FOR YOUR HOSPITAL

Primary or Comprehensive Chest Pain Center certification not only supports integrated, guidelines-based care, but can raise the profile of your hospital within the community and healthcare sector.



## PUBLIC AWARENESS

As a certified hospital, your facility will receive public recognition for its commitment to quality, inspiring patient confidence in your care practices.



## COMPETITIVE EDGE IN RECRUITING

Certification serves as a recruitment tool for physicians and other healthcare professionals. It aids in attracting top-tier clinicians by distinguishing your facility as a leader in delivering quality care.



## PROMOTION & MARKETING

Marketing efforts offer participating hospitals public recognition and exposure.

- Regional, national, and international presentation and showcase opportunities.
- Robust promotional toolkit after your hospital is awarded certification



## TRUSTED BRAND

Certified hospitals are invited to use the AHA iconic Heart-Check mark, a symbol marking leading cardiovascular care institutions for 20 years.

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Hospitals become eligible to begin the journey toward Primary or Comprehensive Chest Pain Center of Care certification by meeting the following general prerequisites:

- The program uses a standardized method of delivering clinical care based on current evidence-based guidelines.
- The program uses performance measurement to improve its performance over time.
- The facility participates in Get With The Guidelines or equivalent registry.





# ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

For questions related to Chest Pain Center Certification,  
contact us at [middle.east@heart.org](mailto:middle.east@heart.org).

