Eisenhower Medical Center Reaccredited as Chest Pain Center

Eisenhower Medical Center has again received full accreditation as a chest pain center from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC). Originally accredited in 2006 and then in 2009, Eisenhower is among the first four hospitals in California to earn Cycle IV accreditation with PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention) — the highest level possible.

Chest Pain Centers strive to quickly diagnose cardiac patients, begin treatment within minutes and significantly improve the chance of a positive outcome. According to SCPC, Chest Pain Centers reduce mortality rates by 37 percent.

“This reaccreditation reflects the hard work and dedication of a multidisciplinary team of skilled staff and physicians providing the highest standards of care to our community,” says Barry Hackshaw, MD, Medical Director, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, Eisenhower Medical Center.

Dr. Barry Hackshaw performs an angiogram in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Eisenhower Medical Center.

Eisenhower’s Chest Pain Center staff analyzes the early warning symptoms of heart attacks, monitors patients, and if needed, provides the patient with immediate access to advanced procedures to treat blockages in the coronary arteries.

The hospital works closely with paramedics who perform pre-hospital 12-lead EKGs (electrocardiograms). Detailed heart data from the EKGs are transmitted from the field to the emergency department physician. If a heart attack is confirmed, the hospital’s Cardiac Catheterization Lab and Emergency Department teams are immediately activated.

Upon arrival, the patient is quickly treated and sent to the catheterization lab. A lifesaving balloon is inflated, followed by a stent placement in the blocked artery that is causing the patient’s heart attack, reestablishing blood flow and reducing damage to the cardiac muscle. While the national standard for door-to-balloon time is 90 minutes, in 2012 Eisenhower’s Chest Pain Center reduced its average to just 70 minutes.

In addition to the 12-lead EKG capabilities, Eisenhower has focused on raising awareness in the community, educating patients on the early recognition of heart attack, pre-hospital care and the importance of calling 911 to activate Emergency Medical Services should the patient experience chest pain. When it comes to heart muscle, every minute counts.

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