



Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

A member of CHW

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MERCY GILBERT MEDICAL CENTER BECOMES AN ACCREDITED CHEST PAIN CENTER

GILBERT, Ariz. (May 31, 2011) - [Mercy Gilbert Medical Center](#), a member of Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), has been named an Accredited Chest Pain Center by the [Society of Chest Pain Centers](#), a non-profit international organization dedicated to eliminating heart disease as the number one cause of death. Mercy Gilbert received the accreditation in recognition of its efforts and expertise in educating, screening and treating patients with heart attack symptoms.

To become an accredited Chest Pain Center, Mercy Gilbert underwent a rigorous evaluation by the Society. A visiting team looked at the medical center's ability to assess, diagnose, and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack. Mercy Gilbert met strict guidelines based upon the following:

- Reducing the time from onset of symptoms to diagnosis and treatment;
- Treating patients more quickly during the critical window of time when the integrity of the heart muscle can be preserved; and
- Monitoring patients when it is not certain that they are having a heart attack to ensure they are not sent home too quickly or needlessly admitted to the hospital.

“We received this accreditation because we’ve achieved a higher level of expertise in dealing with patients who arrive with heart attack symptoms,” says Tim Bricker, president and CEO of Mercy Gilbert Medical Center. Bricker notes that through this work, emphasis has been placed on the standardization of diagnostic and treatment programs to provide the best possible care for patients suffering from chest pain, heart attack or heart failure.

According to Ahtisham Shakoor, M.D., medical director for Mercy Gilbert’s Chest Pain Center, patients truly benefit from the care provided by an accredited Chest Pain Center. “Taking a streamlined, targeted approach for the accurate, prompt diagnosis, treatment and care of a patient ultimately decreases their length of stay in the hospital, and provides better outcomes overall,” says Dr. Shakoor. “We’re proud to provide high quality, consistent medical practices that lead to our patients to an increased understanding of the risk factors contributing to heart attacks as well.”

In recent years, Mercy Gilbert has added a prevention and education component for the benefit of the community, helping to combine a healthy lifestyle with early detection, reducing the occurrence of sudden and undetected problems. Mercy Gilbert, in collaboration with its sister hospital, Chandler Regional Medical Center, are the only hospitals in the Phoenix metropolitan area to offer this program to the communities it serves.

“The addition of our HeartAware™ program has helped individuals to better understand their risk factors that may lead to heart disease, identifying blockages before symptoms appear,” adds Bricker. Upon completing the confidential online assessment, those deemed to be at-risk have the option to schedule a free in-person consultation with a cardiac clinician.

To access the HeartAware™ online risk assessment, please visit **HeartAwareTest.com** or call 480.728.3639. For a doctor referral, please call ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414.

About Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is located at the intersection of Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 (south of Pecos Road and east of Val Vista Drive). Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is a full-service acute-care facility with 212 beds. For more information, please visit www.mercygilbert.org or call 480.728.8000. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities, please visit www.chwcareers.org/arizona. For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414.

About Catholic Healthcare West

Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), headquartered in San Francisco, CA, is a system of 40 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Founded in 1986, it is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health care systems and the largest private hospital system in California. CHW is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health care services with special attention to the poor and underserved. The CHW network of nearly 10,000 physicians and approximately 54,000 employees provides health care services to more than five million people annually. In 2010, CHW provided more than \$1.3 billion in charity care, community benefit, and unreimbursed patient care. For more information, please visit our website at www.chwHEALTH.org.

About the Society of Chest Pain Centers

Established in 1998, SCPC is a patient-centric nonprofit international organization focused on improving care for patients with heart disease. Central to SCPC’s mission is the question, “What is right for the patient?” In response, SCPC promotes protocol-based medicine, often delivered through a chest pain center model, to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndrome and heart failure and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, SCPC provides accreditation and education to facilities striving for optimum cardiac care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. For more information on SCPC and accreditation opportunities, visit www.scpcp.org, or call toll free 1-877-271-4176.