



Marian Medical Center

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NEWS RELEASE

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Marian Receives Prestigious STEMI Center Designation for Cardiac Emergencies

Marian Medical Center awarded STEMI Center Designation from Santa Barbara County's Emergency Medical Services Agency due to the hospital's cardiac care expertise and continued ranking within the 10% nationally in all cardiac care measures of quality

SANTA MARIA, CA – (April 9, 2010) –Marian Medical Center has officially been awarded STEMI Center Designation by the County of Santa Barbara's Emergency Medical Services Agency. Marian's STEMI Center Designation will go into effect on Monday, April 12, at 7 a.m. This prestigious designation means that Marian Medical Center is specially equipped and trained to diagnose and treat ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) type of heart attack, which is caused by sudden, total blockage of a coronary artery.

With Marian's unique Code AMI process, advanced technology and cardiac care expertise, the hospital has now been awarded the esteemed title as a designated STEMI Center. This designation reflects Marian's supreme level of cardiac care and will bring STEMI patients to Marian, instead of other facilities without catheterization laboratories.

Through the Marian Emergency Department's development of a collaborative process known as Code AMI, Marian has furthered the Emergency Department's ability to rapidly transport heart attack patients to the hospital's catheterization laboratory for definitive muscle-saving treatment. The Marian Emergency Department's Code AMI process immediately alerts and brings all necessary medical professionals to the needs of heart attack patients.

"Marian has remained at the forefront of technological advances and cardiology patient care," Chuck Merrill, M.D., Vice President of Medical Affairs, Marian Medical Center, said. "We continue to provide care which ranks in the top 10 percent nationally for cardiac care quality. The recent STEMI designation from the Santa Barbara County is a testament to the excellent patient care offered collaboratively through Marian's Emergency and Cardiology Services. Patients with acute heart attacks will be able to receive treatment at Marian's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory in rapid time facilitating definitive heart muscle-saving treatment."

In fact, Marian exceeds the national standard for the 90 minute door-to-balloon time, which is one of the many guidelines established by the American College of Cardiology in order to earn a STEMI designation title. Other requirements include licensure as a cardiac catheterization laboratory, availability of a communication system for notification of appropriate personnel of an incoming STEMI patient - a dedicated team of cardiologists, catheterization lab staff, emergency department physicians and skilled clinical staff who within moments of STEMI notification are readily available to the incoming patient.

Marian launched its comprehensive cardiac program in the spring of 1993 and for nearly 70 years has remained a trusted resource for the community. The Marian Heart Center's team of cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons, interventional cardiologists, cardiologists, skilled nurses and a group of other specially-trained healthcare professionals, specializes in the prevention and diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of heart disease.

Marian has been recognized by Catholic Healthcare West with a "Best Practice" Award for the Heart Center's quick response in cardiac emergencies and treatment of patients with Congestive Heart Failure which exceeds national standards. Marian's Heart Program earned exceptional scores for treatment in cardiac patients which earned the hospital a Quality Report Card from JCAHO with "plus marks" in cardiac care. In addition, the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) ranked Marian Medical Center in the top 10 percent nationally for all cardiac care measures of quality.

In 2009, Marian's Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center, located in the Marian Health and Wellness Center, received program certification from the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation's national board for excellence in care. Marian is one of only a select number of programs in all of California earning this recognition.

For more information about Marian's recent STEMI Center Designation, please contact Marian's Communications Department at (805) 739-3580.

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About Marian Medical Center

Located in Santa Maria, California, Marian Medical Center is a not-for-profit hospital founded by the Sisters of Saint Francis in 1940. Our team of 1,300 employees and more than 260 physicians work daily to extend the mission of providing compassionate, high quality health care services to the Santa Maria Valley and surrounding communities. Marian Medical Center is a member of Catholic Healthcare West, the largest Catholic healthcare system based in the Western United States with 40 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. For more information about Marian Medical Center or Catholic Healthcare West, visit our website at www.marianmedicalcenter.org.