

# Memorial Health Care System

---

Contact: Brian Lazenby, (423) 495-4320

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 4, 2012

## *Memorial Receives Award for Cardiovascular Performance*

Chattanooga, TN – The National Cardiovascular Data Registry awarded Memorial Health Care System a 2011 Gold Performance Achievement Award. Memorial is one of just 171 programs in the nation to receive the award. Other recipients include Duke University Hospital and UCLA Medical Center.

The award demonstrates Memorial's achievement of sustaining high performance measures in the treatment of acute myocardial infarction patients through the implementation of ACTION Registry-Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) and in-hospital initiation of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association recommendations. Myocardial infarction is more commonly referred to as a heart attack.

Eric H. Conn, M.D., interventional cardiologist at The Chattanooga Heart Institute, said the award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Memorial's staff and to their commitment to excellence. "The number of heart attack patients we treat is expected to grow over the next decade due to an aging population and increased heart disease," Dr. Conn said. "We're implementing ACTION guidelines to continue to improve the excellent quality of cardiovascular care we provide."

Memorial has already reached significant milestones in treating cardiac patients. Memorial consistently beats the national benchmark for the time taken to treat a heart attack patient from arrival to treatment. The national standard is 90 minutes but Memorial's time is consistently under 20 minutes and has been as low as 9 minutes from the time the patient enters the emergency room to the time they receive treatment.

To receive the ACTION Registry-GWTG Gold Performance Achievement Award, Memorial consistently followed the treatment guidelines in ACTION Registry-GWTG for eight consecutive quarters and met a performance standard of at least 85% for specific performance measures.

"The American College of Cardiology Foundation and the American Heart Association commend Memorial for its success in implementing these high standards of care and protocols," said Gregg C. Fonarow, MD, FACC, FAHA, ACTION Registry-GWTG Steering Committee Chair and Director of Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center. "The full implementation of acute and secondary prevention guideline-recommended therapy is a critical step in saving lives and improving outcomes of heart attack patients."

ACTION Registry-GWTG was created by the merger of the NCDR<sup>®</sup> ACTION Registry from the American College of Cardiology Foundation<sup>®</sup> and the Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup>-CAD program from

the American Heart Association. It combines the best of both programs into a single, unified national registry.

**Memorial Health Care System** is a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to the healing ministry of the Church. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and strengthened as part of Catholic Health Initiatives, it offers a continuum of care including preventative, primary and acute hospital care, as well as cancer and cardiac care, orthopedic and rehabilitation services. Memorial is a regional referral center of choice with 4,000 associates and more than 700 affiliated physicians providing health care throughout Southeast Tennessee and North Georgia. Memorial Health Care System is recognized as one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® by Thomson Reuters, the health care industry's leading source of information on hospital quality. To learn more, visit [www.memorial.org](http://www.memorial.org).

###