An integrated collaborative approach to care and quality improvement
Cardiovascular Center of Excellence Accreditation

A record number of hospitals have earned accreditations in multiple components of their cardiovascular services. If yours is one of them, we salute your achievements.

Pursuing Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation is the next step in your hospital’s cardiovascular quality improvement program. This service builds upon the foundation of your achievements in individual service lines to create an integrated collaborative systems of care approach, designed to improve cardiovascular health of your population.

Offered by the American Heart Association in collaboration with the American College of Cardiology, this overarching accreditation program serves as a Capstone to excellence in guideline-driven care across a cardiovascular spectrum. Working as your partner, together we have the ability to create stability in your population’s health.
The goal of Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation is to help you improve your population’s cardiovascular health by integrating care across all cardiovascular disease processes. More importantly, we help you with your disease prevention efforts.

Data is at the core for a strong Learning Health System to operate efficiently and effectively. Therefore, data harmonization across the Cornerstone accreditations and GWTG programs decreases the data-entry burden by reducing duplicative efforts. As a result, both data and personnel can be utilized more economically and where their skill sets can have the most impact on your program.
The AHA/ACC Collaboration

Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation is the result of a collaboration between two of the leading names in cardiovascular health: the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology.

The relationship between the two organizations is based on:

- Shared goals of transforming cardiovascular health to help people live longer, healthier lives free of cardiovascular disease
- A 30-year history of working together to develop cardiovascular clinical guidelines and translate those guidelines into programs and services that shape clinical care and improve patient outcomes
- Leveraging of collective expertise and resources to identify and recognize high-performing cardiovascular service lines
- Sharing of unbiased, actionable, achievable benchmarks for all hospitals and clinical leaders to use as they strive to raise their own standards of clinical performance
- Single-source accreditation that ensures continuous and effective quality improvement in cardiovascular care

Together and with our hospital partners, we are making a difference.
What are the Cornerstone Accreditations?

There are a total of four Cornerstone accreditations, all of which are administered by the American College of Cardiology. To become a Cardiovascular Center of Excellence, a hospital must earn accreditation as a Chest Pain Center (the mandatory Cornerstone) as well as two or more of the three remaining Cornerstones in the following areas:

- Heart Failure
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Cardiac Cath Lab

New Cornerstone options are being created as the cardiovascular need is identified. The hospital can select from other optional Cornerstone accreditations as they become available. For a detailed list, visit our website at www.Heart.org/CardiacAccreditation.
An Impact as High as the Achievement

Cardiovascular Center of Excellence hospitals can expect:

• Integration of cardiovascular care delivery across service lines
• Improvement in their population’s health with disease prevention efforts
• Alignment with best practices in coordinated care to improve efficiency, contributing to improved clinical and financial outcomes
• Better outcomes for cardiovascular patients using a systemized, evidence-based approach
• Identification of gaps based on observation of trends and patterns across the service line to reduce variations in care
• Alignment with industry leaders in cardiovascular care
• Ongoing support and partnership from the American Heart Association, a brand both clinicians and consumers recognize and trust
Leadership, Learning and Networking Opportunities

Achieving Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation is no small feat. Hospitals that succeed are acknowledged as leaders and raise the bar in cardiovascular care. They are urged to join the national conversation about cardiovascular care issues through invited participation in a national forum for accredited hospitals. We provide access to educational webinars on timely subjects and invitations to share their expertise through online discussions. Networking opportunities abound, facilitating the exchange of best practices as well as the free flow of ideas and feedback.
Recognition for Your Hospital

Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation not only supports integrated, guidelines-based care, but also raises the profile of your hospital within your community and the healthcare sector.

Public Awareness
As an accredited hospital, your facility will receive public recognition for its commitment to quality. Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation inspires patient confidence in your care practices. It serves as a demonstration of your hospital’s willingness to do everything possible to support your population’s health and quality of life.

Competitive Edge in Recruiting
Accreditation 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 and Marketing
The American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology marketing efforts and online map tools offer accredited hospitals public recognition and exposure.

Brand Association
Accredited hospitals are invited to use the AHA’s iconic Heart-Check mark, a symbol patients know and trust.
Eligibility

Hospitals become eligible to apply for Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation by meeting the following general prerequisites:

**US Location:**
The hospital must be within the United States or any US territories, operated by the U.S. government or operated under a charter by the US Congress.

**Required Cornerstone accreditations:**
The hospital must have the minimum required/optional ACC/AHA branded Cornerstone accreditation.

**Participating Hospital Agreement:**
The hospital must agree to the terms described in the Participating Hospital Agreement.

For details on accreditation, contact accreditation@heart.org.
Answering Your Questions

For questions related to Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation, contact us at accreditation@heart.org or complete our online information form at Heart.org/CardiacAccreditation.

For questions related to Cornerstone accreditations (Chest Pain Center, Heart Failure, Atrial Fibrillation and Cath Lab), contact accreditationinfo@acc.org.

To learn more and register for informational webinars, visit our websites:

- Cardiacaccreditation.org
- Heart.org/CardiacAccreditation
- Accreditation.acc.org.