Cardiovascular Center of Excellence Overview

The American Heart Association has an exciting and innovative program targeting key healthcare priorities: improving quality of care and patient outcomes, addressing the health of the population served, and implementing processes to reduce costly duplication. The Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation focuses on shifting the operational paradigm from siloed cardiovascular service lines to integrated and coordinated Systems of Care across the entire service line. Integrated delivery systems spanning primary care, pre-hospital, in-hospital, interfacility, and post-discharge care contribute to higher quality long-term continuum based care for patients, reduction in gaps, and decreased duplicative efforts across the entire System of Care. This enhanced efficiency can help your hospital meet your financial goals. The Cardiovascular Center of Excellence is setting a new standard for quality across the continuum of cardiovascular care.

BENEFITS

- An integrative, interdisciplinary approach to the cardiovascular service line governance will disrupt longstanding barriers and silos
- Use of the Learning Health System model, providers can continuously assess and learn from clinical decisions made based on evidence-based, guideline driven care to improve quality of care thus maximizing positive clinical outcomes by ensuring alignment with best practices through better harmonization across the continuum of cardiovascular health
- An emphasis on population health will build upon the efficiencies realized through improved internal and external coordination by further impacting the health of the overall population through disease prevention and wellness efforts giving the hospital the power to stabilize their community’s health
- Ongoing consultation, networking, and mentorship opportunities with other Centers of Excellence for best practice sharing, exclusive educational opportunities and resources, research opportunities including the chance to showcase your hospital’s achievement and innovative best practices on a local, regional, and national stage
- Alignment with the American Heart Association and the Heart-Check Mark, a name and symbol that patients know and trust for making decisions about their health
- Improved staff engagement, communication, and commitment to common goals
- Attract and retain top talent to your institution
- Have these experts clearly communicated program expectations in a way that rallies your staff together to achieve best quality care?

Systems of Care

- Is community outreach focused on a Systems of Care approach to educate and improve your population’s health?
- Do your various referring and receiving entities report smooth handoffs with predictable, optimal timing for all cardiovascular transfers?

Clinical Quality

- Are you optimally measuring gains internally and as a system?
- Are you measuring the impact on your populations’ health?

ELIGIBILITY

Hospitals are eligible to apply for the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence by meeting the following prerequisites:

Achieving Applicable Disease-Specific Cardiovascular Accreditations or Certifications: Hospital has or is in the process of obtaining accreditations or certifications in the following areas: Chest Pain, Atrial Fibrillation, Heart Failure, Cardiac Catheterization.  
- or-
Readiness Assessment Demonstrating Equivalency Hospitals without existing applicable disease-specific accreditations or certifications will need to successfully complete a Readiness Assessment demonstrating sufficient structure and performance in the foundational areas including Chest Pain, Atrial Fibrillation, Heart Failure, and Cardiac Catheterization.

COMPONENTS

Governance

- Do you have the right level of expertise at the helm to lead your cardiovascular quality program?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To learn more about Cardiovascular Center of Excellence, please visit www.heart.org/cardiacaccreditation or contact us at accreditation@heart.org.