



American  
Heart  
Association.



# INTERNATIONAL CHEST PAIN CENTER CERTIFICATION

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## Eligibility Guide

The American Heart Association is collaborating with the Emirates Cardiac Society to improve quality and access to STEMI care by offering chest pain center certification in the United Arab Emirates.





**Data Burden Reduction**

Certification measures are part of AHA’s Get With The Guidelines – Coronary Artery Disease registry or a national or international acute coronary syndrome/ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (ACS/STEMI) registry to decrease your data burden and free up your resources to make your certification easier to achieve.



**Certification Standards**

Contact [middle.east@heart.org](mailto:middle.east@heart.org) or complete the information form on our [website](#) to request a copy of the detailed International Chest Pain Center Certification Program Manual.

**Certification Term**

Chest Pain Centers are each certified for a term of **three years with an annual review process.**

**Fees**

The annual fee for **Chest Pain Center Certification** is \$15,000 USD, which includes full participation in the Get With The Guidelines - Coronary Artery Disease quality improvement registry.

Invoices are sent to the applicant once the Participation Agreement is fully executed. Facilities have one year from payment date to complete the certification process. All payments are non-refundable.

**Chest Pain Center Certification Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for Chest Pain Center Certification, the applying hospital must participate in the Get With The Guidelines®- Coronary Artery Disease (GWTG-CAD) quality improvement registry or a national or international acute coronary syndrome/ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (ACS/STEMI) registry.

Evidence of participation may be one of the following:

- Active GWTG-CAD Agreement, or
- Example data report from another ACS/STEMI registry

REQUIREMENT	COMPREHENSIVE CHEST PAIN CENTER	PRIMARY CHEST PAIN CENTER
Protocols for triage, diagnosis, and treatment of STEMI patients	√	√
On Call Cardiac Cath Lab Coverage 24/7 regardless of emergency department (ED) diversion status	√	
Cardiac Cath Lab and Cardiologist Arrival within 30 minutes of STEMI activation	√	

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REQUIREMENT	COMPREHENSIVE CHEST PAIN CENTER	PRIMARY CHEST PAIN CENTER
Universal Acceptance of STEMI Patients with triage plan for multiple simultaneous patients	√	√
Interventional Cardiologists meet American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) Criteria for competency	√	
Facility meets ACC/AHA Guidelines for PCI/Primary PCI Institutional Volume Requirements	√	
Designated Chest Pain Coordinator and a recognized medical director/physician champion	√	√
Quality Improvement Program should be in place	√	√
Designated Multidisciplinary Team in place to track and improve STEMI patient care throughout hospitalization	√	√
Standardized Reperfusion Strategy designating Primary PCI as the standard reperfusion strategy	√	√
Protocol/Process for Facilitating Rapid Transfer to the most appropriate Comprehensive Chest Pain Center		√
Fibrinolytic Therapy Reperfusion Pathway for lytic eligible patients when the system cannot achieve transfer for PCI reperfusion times		√

### Certification Process

- Eligibility Information and Requirements:** Review the eligibility information contained in this document.
- Request Readiness Assessment :** On the AHA webpage at <http://www.heart.org/internationalQI> complete and submit the requested information. Upon receipt of the request, an AHA representative will provide an electronic copy of the readiness assessment for the certification program, which includes the standards, measurement criteria, application, and the participation agreement.
- Application:** The organization completes and submits the application located at the end of this document and submits via email to [InternationalQI@heart.org](mailto:InternationalQI@heart.org). *Applications will expire one year from the date received.*
- Participation Agreement:** The facility reviews, signs, and submits the agreement
- Fees:** Once payment is received you will be contacted by an AHA Representative to initiate the certification review process. Facilities will utilize the Quality and Certification Tool (QCT) to submit all supporting documentation for review. Individualized training will be provided for the primary contact identified by the facility.

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QCT – Quality Certification Tool is a portal used for maintaining compliance with the program requirements, document submission and storage, quality measure data entry, and as a general resource for your chosen certification or quality improvement program or initiative. The portal is also used to execute the Agreement, submit Certification Program payment, upload required documentation, and issue the Certification Program certificate.

6. **Certification Readiness Review:** AHA staff will work closely with the hospital to prepare for certification review. AHA staff helps you meet your chest pain program goals through ongoing collaboration with multidisciplinary team to improve patient care and outcomes. This includes but is not limited to site preparation to help your hospital prepare for certification review.
7. **Desk Review:** An AHA Reviewer evaluates the facilities' application and supporting documentation for adherence to the Requirements. If there are any questions, the AHA Reviewer schedules calls with the facility to resolve documentation questions.
8. **Virtual Review:** The virtual review will culminate with a virtual presentation of your hospital's chest pain program with AHA. This is an opportunity for the Reviewers to have a complete understanding of your program and learn about how you serve your chest pain community. The Reviewers will provide you with a suggested outline of information that should be presented.
9. **Committee Review:** The Reviewers make the recommendation for certification and submits a detailed report to the review committee for consensus agreement.
10. **Annual Review:** The annual review will be for maintenance of certification to provide updates on progress from recommended opportunities for improvement from previous review along with ongoing reporting and assessment of standardized quality measures.



## Additional Resources

The following reference items, articles, publications, and research were used in determining the requirements of the Chest Pain Center Certification Program.

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- Antman, E. M., Anbe, D. T., Armstrong, P. W., Bates, E. R., Hand, M., Hochman, J. S., . . . Jacobs, A. K. (20014, August 2). ACC/AHA Guidelines for the Management of Patients With ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction—Executive Summary. *Circulation*, pp. 588-636.
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- Granger, C. B., Henry, T. D., Bates, W. E., Cercek, B., Weaver, W. D., & Williams, D. O. (2007, July 10). Development of Systems of Care for ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patients: The Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction–Receiving) Hospital Perspective. *Circulation*, pp. e55-e59.
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