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 and retention of top talent at your institution.

**COMPONENTS**

**Governance**

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

- **Located within the US**: Hospital must be located within the United States; or any of its territories; or operated by the US government or operated under a charter of the US Congress.
- **Program Capacity Assessment (Readiness Assessment)**: Hospitals must demonstrate through the Readiness Assessment process that they have the requisite process, structure, and outcomes in place in the areas of Acute Coronary Syndrome, Heart Failure, and Atrial Fibrillation to support a coordinated Cardiovascular Center of Excellence.
- **Participating Hospital Agreement**: Hospitals must agree to the terms described in the Participating Hospital Agreement.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

To learn more about Cardiovascular Center of Excellence, please visit [www.heart.org/accreditation](http://www.heart.org/accreditation) or contact us at [accreditation@heart.org](mailto:accreditation@heart.org).