



Hallmark Health System's Cardiac & Endovascular Center is a state-of-the-art facility that provides advanced cardiac and vascular care for people in our community who are suffering from common - but in many cases life-threatening health issues such as; acute heart attacks, abdominal aortic aneurysms (a bulge in the main vessel supplying blood to the abdomen, pelvis and legs), blood clots, and circulatory problems that can affect many parts of the body.

### Advanced Specialty Services Close to Home

The Cardiac & Endovascular Center's community setting significantly improves the health and quality of life for many individuals, especially for older and infirm patients and those in need of emergency care. Some of the benefits include:

- Providing the most sophisticated cardiac and vascular services with the personal attention, continuity of treatment and timely communication that are the cornerstones of community-based, patient-centered care.
- A multidisciplinary team of cardiologists, interventional cardiologists, interventional radiologists, vascular surgeons, nurses and radiology technicians working together to provide a comprehensive approach to care.
- Close proximity to patients' primary care physicians.
- The comfort and convenience of receiving care close to home and near loved ones can help speedy recovery.
- Access to Hallmark Health's heart and vascular specialists – who have been credited with exceptional patient outcomes – including time-sensitive, life-saving treatment for heart attack victims that are equal to or superior to those of Boston's renowned academic medical centers and other hospitals throughout the country.
- Offering cardiac and vascular education and screenings free to the community, including PVD, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, exercise, nutrition, stress management, basic life support programs and women and heart disease seminars.

## Exceptional Patient Outcomes

During a heart attack, blood vessels remain closed and heart muscle dies every minute. According to the American College of Cardiology (ACC), opening a blocked artery sooner results in better outcomes. Hallmark Health's capabilities exceed the national average in patient outcomes and rapid response to treatment. These superior outcomes are not often found in community settings. For example:

- Average door-to-balloon time for emergency angioplasties to treat patients suffering acute heart attacks was 92.3 minutes at Hallmark Health System hospitals in 2005 compared to 140 minutes for all hospitals reporting procedural data to the ACC.
- The mortality rate for patients undergoing primary angioplasty was half the rate observed in Massachusetts' hospitals, including Boston's academic medical centers. Hallmark Health System physicians began performing elective angioplasties in July 2006, as well as emergency procedures.
- Hallmark Health System participates in Duke University's CRUSADE trial and was ranked in the top 25 percent of hospitals across the country for quickly recognizing and successfully treating patients who arrive in the emergency department with severe symptoms of an impending heart attack.
- For patients with acute heart problems, Hallmark Health received a five-star rating in quality of care, according to HealthGrades, our nation's leading provider of independent hospital ratings.

## Responding to a Major Health Problem

More than 500,000 deaths per year are attributed to heart disease, making it the number one cause of death in America. This year, more than a million men and women will have a new or recurrent heart attack. In addition, an estimated 8-12 million Americans suffer from peripheral vascular disease (blockages in vessels outside the heart and brain), which can be painful, and potentially fatal. Other statistics that support the need for the convenient and ready access to the expertise that is being offered by Hallmark Health's Cardiac & Endovascular Center are:

- U.S. census projections indicate an 11.5% increase in the number of baby boomers (45-64 age group) living within Melrose-Wakefield and Lawrence Memorial Hospitals' service area by 2010.
- As baby boomers age there will be an increase in the incidence of heart problems and/or vascular disease.
- Our area's expanding population of baby boomers is also expected to require more general health care services, emergency care for chest pain and other cardiac symptoms, peripheral vascular disease and leg pain treatment, ambulatory services, rehabilitation and post-hospital support services.

For more information on the Cardiac & Endovascular Center call 781.979.3999

