

West Jefferson Honored with Mission: Lifeline Achievement Award



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(MARRERO, LA – JUNE 15, 2015) — **West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC)** has received the Mission: Lifeline® Silver Receiving Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

Each year in the United States, approximately 250,000 people have a STEMI, or [ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction](#), caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to immediately restore blood flow, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication.

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program's goal is to reduce system barriers to prompt treatment for heart attacks, beginning with the 9-1-1 call and continuing through hospital treatment.

"West Jefferson is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our patients who suffer a heart attack, and the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program is helping us accomplish that goal through nationally respected clinical guidelines," said Nancy R. Cassagne, CEO of West

Jefferson Medical Center. “We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in cardiac care, and I am very proud of our team.”

“We commend West Jefferson Medical Center for this achievement award, which reflects a significant institutional commitment to the highest quality of care for their heart attack patients,” said James G. Jollis, MD, Chair of the Mission: Lifeline Advisory Working Group and President of the North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. “Achieving this award means the hospital has met specific reporting and achievement measures for the treatment of their patients who suffer heart attacks and we applaud them for their commitment to quality and timely care.”

West Jefferson earned the award by meeting specific criteria and standards of performance for the quick and appropriate treatment of STEMI patients by providing emergency procedures to re-establish blood flow to blocked arteries when needed. Eligible hospitals must adhere to these measures at a set level for a designated period to receive the awards.

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About West Jefferson Medical Center

Founded in 1956, West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC) is a community hospital located in Marrero, LA, just 10 minutes from downtown New Orleans. As a full service medical center, WJMC offers comprehensive programs for preventive, emergency, acute and rehabilitative care with a medical staff of more than 400 physicians and a complement of 1,700 employees and many volunteers. WJMC serves a community of more than 180,000 people. Located near vast industrial quarters, the medical center also serves business and industry across the Gulf South. Clinical excellence divisions include: neurosciences, cardiovascular services, and an academic community cancer center. To meet the community needs, West Jefferson Medical Center Physician Services includes both primary care and specialty clinics located across the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. The medical center enjoys awards for clinical excellence across many of its subspecialties.

About Mission: Lifeline

The American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for STEMI patients. The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Foundation clinical treatment guidelines. For more information, visit heart.org/missionlifeline and heart.org/quality.