

Incorporate Certification for Cardiac Care in your Centers of Excellence



Cardiac Systems of Care

The Joint Commission and the AHA have worked together for over fifteen years to improve quality and access to care for patients, certifying more than 1400 hospitals in 8 certifications for cardiac and stroke.

Statistics prove there is a large-scale need for cardiac systems of care to help ensure patients receive appropriate and timely care. All too often the public, and sometimes even first responders, do not know where to go when a patient is experiencing a STEMI event. So, heart attack certifications have one thing in common: they enable the building of a strong foundation for a larger, more effective STEMI system of care.

The Joint Commission and the AHA are committed to designing certifications that improve processes and the quality of care. Achieving cardiac certification:

- Provides a framework for standardization reducing variation and risk
- Helps improve patient outcomes
- Demonstrates commitment to a high standard of service
- Helps organize teams across the continuum of care

The Joint Commission's three areas of cardiac certification can drive remarkable organizational efficiencies as a certification is maintained over time through seamless, logistical implementation. Certification provides a formalized framework for proactively compiling, measuring and tracking data to identify areas for improvement.

Building Blocks for the Cardiac System of Care



Acute Heart Attack Ready

- STEMI receiving or referring/receiving



Primary Heart Attack Center

- STEMI 24/7 receiving with volumes



Comprehensive Heart Attack Center

- UA, NSTEMI
- NSTEMI receiving (PPCI)
- CABG
- Resuscitation/Temperature
- Valve repair/replacement
- Electrophysiology services and devices
- Heart failure
- Cardiac rehab

The Joint Commission has a comprehensive process of cardiac care certification — which includes an application process, preparation and review support. This process can quickly and effectively facilitate the certification process of qualified organizations.

To discuss how your health plan can quickly expand or develop high-quality cardiac care providers to participate in your Centers of Excellence (CoE), please contact Kimberly Clawson, Senior Associate Director, Payor Relations at kclawson@jointcommission.org.