
HCA Virginia Hospitals Receive Chest Pain Center Certification *First in Greater Richmond to be Accredited*

Richmond, VA - HCA Virginia announced today that all four of its hospitals in Greater Richmond have been fully accredited by the Society for Chest Pain Centers (SCPS). CJW Medical Center, Henrico Doctors' Hospital, John Randolph Medical Center and Retreat Hospital are the first facilities in the region to earn this distinction.

“Full accreditation by all of our hospitals indicates not only a commitment to providing superior care to patients with cardiac problems, but also expertise in doing so,” said Patrick Farrell, President of HCA’s Richmond Division. “We are delighted to receive this independent verification of our network’s cardiac capabilities.”

The SCPS advocates a protocol-driven and systematic approach to patient care. This approach enables physicians to treat patients more quickly, during the critical early stages of a heart attack when treatment is the most effective, and to better monitor patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event. Such observation helps ensure that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

To gain accreditation, each of HCA Virginia’s four area hospitals demonstrated their expertise by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and by completing an on-site evaluation by a review team from the SCPC. Those criteria included:

- Integrating the emergency department with the local emergency medical system
- Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly
- Effectively treating patients with low risk for acute coronary syndrome and no assignable cause for their symptoms
- Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures

- Ensuring Chest Pain Center personnel competency and training
- Maintaining organizational structure and commitment
- Having a functional design that promotes optimal patient care
- Supporting community outreach programs that educate the public to promptly seek medical care if they display symptoms of a possible heart attack

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 people dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. The SCPC is working to reduce the mortality rate of these patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to the early symptoms of a possible heart attack, to reduce the time that it takes to receive treatment, and to increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

HCA Virginia hospitals treat more patients with heart disease than any other health system in Central Virginia. CJW Medical Center and Henrico Doctors' Hospital are the highest-ranked hospitals in the region for overall cardiac care in 2006 according to HealthGrades, an independent healthcare rating organization. Both facilities have also been named on Solucient's list of *100 Top Hospitals: Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success*.

About HCA Virginia

HCA Virginia is a network of locally managed hospitals and outpatient centers in Central, Southwest, and Northern Virginia. Local facilities include CJW Medical Center, Henrico Doctors' Hospital, John Randolph Medical Center, Retreat Hospital, Hanover Outpatient Surgery Center and Tuckahoe Surgery Center. HCA Virginia is the state's fifth-largest private employer, treating 1.2 million patients and providing \$106 million in free care to low-income uninsured patients in 2005. For more information, please visit HCAvirginia.com.

About the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC)

[The Society of Chest Pain Centers is a patient centric non-profit international professional organization focused upon improving care for patients with acute coronary syndromes and other related maladies.](#) Established in 1998, the Society is dedicated to

patient advocacy and focusing on ischemic heart disease. Central to its mission is the question, “What is right for the patient?” In answer, the Society promotes protocol based medicine, often delivered through a Chest Pain Center model to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, the Society of Chest Pain Centers provides accreditation to facilities striving for optimum Chest Pain Center care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

For more information on the Society of Chest Pain Centers visit www.scpcp.org, or contact Robert Lipetz, Executive Director at (614) 442-5950 or director@scpcp.org.

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