

Chest Pain Certified Hospitals Improve Patient Outcomes

Adherence to evidence-based guidelines improves patient care. The American Heart Association is working to improve quality and increase access to chest pain care around the world.

The Impact of Chest Pain

Highest Mortality Rate in the World



Cardiovascular disease, including ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) or heart attack, is the **leading cause of death worldwide**, causing more than **19.9 million deaths in 2021**.

This is a nearly **22% increase** globally since 2010.¹



Worldwide, there are estimated **7.3 million acute myocardial infarctions (AMI)** per year. Another **estimated 4 million** are at **risk of STEMI**.²

Increasing Risk Factors



An **estimated 1.3 billion** use tobacco.³



More than **1 billion adults live with hypertension** – a leading risk factor for myocardial infarction and only about half are aware they have it.⁴



1 in 6 people in the world will be over 60 years old by **2030**.²

¹ 2024 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics: A Report of US and Global Data From the American Heart Association, Circulation, 149:8, (e347–e913), Pages e2492 <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0242930>
² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hypertension#:~:text=An%20estimated%201.28%20billion%20adults,33%25%20between%202010%20and%202030.>

³ WHO global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco use 2000–2025 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240039322>

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hypertension#:~:text=An%20estimated%201.28%20billion%20adults,33%25%20between%202010%20and%202030>




Outcomes improve when providers and hospitals follow **data-driven processes** and procedures that lead to the development, management and implementation of **high-quality care**.

About International Chest Pain Certification through the American Heart Association®

Integrated, Collaborative Chest Pain Care Across Service Lines for Reduced Variations in Care and Improved Outcomes

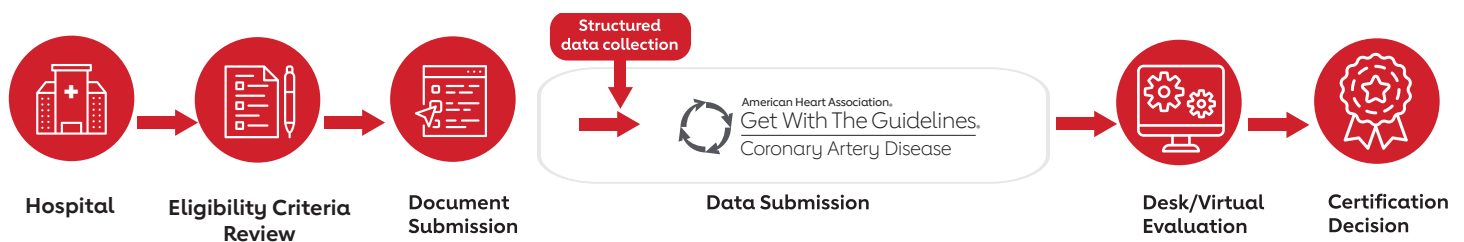
International Chest Pain Certification is a quality improvement program that helps hospitals remove obstacles to prompt heart attack care. It provides guidelines for fast and appropriate treatment of STEMI, the most severe form of heart attack.

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- ☒ International Chest Pain Certified Centers must document and demonstrate how their organization has committed to providing quality care.
 - ☒ The de-identified data collected allows hospitals to identify gaps based on observed trends and patterns to reduce variations in care.
 - ☒ The investment in certification also includes access to the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Coronary Artery Disease program. With this, hospitals can use data and tools to improve outcomes and contribute to the 650 scientific publications advancing global cardiovascular health.

Primary and Comprehensive Certification Levels

Level of Care	Primary Chest Pain Centers	Comprehensive Chest Pain Centers
Able to care for STEMI and non-STEMI patients	✓	✓
Infrastructure required to effectively manage patients	✓	✓
Transfer protocols between facilities for patients with medical complexity	✓	✓
Rapid assessment and timely administration of primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PPCI)	✓	✓
Interdisciplinary team availability to meet the medical recovery and social needs of the chest pain patient	✓	✓
Chest pain-specific education for the entire care team	✓	✓
Robust chest pain quality improvement initiatives	✓	✓
Data collection and interval submission of data	✓	✓
Ability to meet the concurrently emerging needs of multiple STEMI patients		✓
24/7 availability of cardiologist and cardiac catheterization lab team		✓
Collaborative management of patients with emergency medicine and other specialties as appropriate.		✓
Increased education requirements for multidisciplinary staff		✓
Participate in IRB-approved research		✓

Map to International Chest Pain Center Certification



Benefits of International Chest Pain Center Certification through the American Heart Association

Certification supports your hospital in its work to achieve:

- ✓ Continuous and effective quality improvement in coordinated STEMI and non-STEMI care
- ✓ Improved outcomes and survival in your community
- ✓ Reduced variations in care
- ✓ Improved efficiency
- ✓ Improved financial outcomes.
- ✓ Recognition from a trusted brand in patient and community health
- ✓ Implementation of consistent and standardized care processes
- ✓ Education for healthcare professionals and the community
- ✓ Participation in research opportunities



Support For Implementation

The evidence-based guidelines for chest pain care are at the foundation of **International Chest Pain Certification** and **Get With The Guidelines® - Coronary Artery Disease**. Your hospital will receive world-class support to implement guideline-directed therapies equitably to all patients.

Support from the American Heart Association includes:



Examples of structure to **build your chest pain program team**



Comprehensive Program Manual,
a best practice guide offering:



Quality Improvement experts to help you meet your chest pain program goals



Ongoing collaboration with multidisciplinary team



Site preparation to help your hospital prepare for certification



Quality Improvement Consultation

Benchmark and compare against regional and U.S. hospitals

Identify opportunities, and implement plans to improve quality

Powered by the World-Class Science of the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association have engaged in international efforts to save lives around the world. Our collaborative initiatives with global organizations provide support to governments, health care providers, hospital and pre-hospital systems and communities. Through these concerted efforts, we aim to enhance cardiovascular health outcomes and reduce the global burden of stroke and related diseases.



Learn More

Scan or visit www.Heart.org/ChestPain

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