

The Chester County Hospital

Every minute counts. Spend a shift with the physicians, nurses and other staff members at The CardioVascular Center at The Chester County Hospital and you are likely to hear this expression. What they mean is quick action is essential in treating patients who exhibit symptoms of a heart attack.

Founded in 2001, The CardioVascular Center has become a leader in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. It greatly increased its standing in the healthcare community when, in 2006, the Center became a cardiac surgery affiliate of the Cleveland Clinic, a recognized world leader in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Through this affiliation, it has grown from a local provider of care to a regional referral center and in 2008 performed over 200 heart surgeries and 1,500 catheter interventions.

In July 2006, The CardioVascular Center was named a Blue Distinction Center by Blue Cross

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and Blue Shield Association of Pennsylvania, an honor based on the Hospital’s adherence to quality standards for the facility, its processes and patient-care outcomes.

“Dr. Timothy Boyek, medical director of The Chester County Hospital’s cardiac catheterization lab, reminds us that time is heart muscle,” says Jean Caulfield, senior vice president of professional services at the Hospital. “This means that minimizing the time from a heart attack to getting blood flowing again to the heart muscle is critical. We were the first hospital in the area to have 24-7 code percutaneous coronary intervention, known as PCI,” meaning that help is available around the clock for anyone experiencing a heart attack.

“Heart care is something you’ve got to get close to home,” says Caulfield. “At The Chester County Hospital, we offer the full spectrum of cardiovascular services.”

National guidelines state that it should take no more than 90 minutes from the time a patient enters the emergency department until the cardiac catheterization treatment is complete. The Chester County Hospital almost always beats this time, averaging less than 70 minutes. Caulfield states that emergency medical services personnel in the

county—those that see the patients in the field—are very pleased with this treatment timeline.

As the population ages, atrial fibrillation or AFib, a common heart rhythm problem, is increasing in frequency. The American Heart Association estimates that about one in every 25 Americans over the age of 65 have AFib. And doctors have learned that early intervention is key to curing or successfully managing the condition.

At The Chester County Hospital, a multidisciplinary center has been initiated for the treatment of AFib. The Center for Atrial Fibrillation brings together nurses, physician’s assistants and physicians from cardiology, electrophysiology and cardiovascular surgery to evaluate and make recommendations for treatment.

Cardiac care at The CardioVascular Center is patient-centered and is focused on prevention, intervention, treatment and rehabilitation. Through fitness classes at the Center for Health and Fitness, as well as exercise and strength-training programs, patients are kept on the road to good health through primary and secondary prevention and the lifetime management of heart disease. Community outreach programs, including the cardiovascular risk assessment Heart Tracks, offer screenings throughout the region. Education lectures and conferences are held on an ongoing basis.

“The heart muscle we’ve saved over the last seven years is incredible,” says Caulfield.

In the near future, a new home for The CardioVascular Center will open in the Hospital’s West Pavilion. It has been designed from the ground up to provide a facility for patient-centered, integrated and accessible cardiac care and an expansion of the Hospital’s affiliation with the Cleveland Clinic.

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Pictured: The multidisciplinary team of the CardioVascular Center’s physician champions include William Clay Warnick, M.D.; Rita Falcone, M.D.; Nicholas Vaganos, M.D.; Donna Marie Reed, D.O., and Mian A. Jan, M.D. (all seated) as well as Martin LeBoutillier, M.D.; Matthew Sewell, M.D.; Alain Efstratiou, M.D.; Timothy J. Boyek, M.D.; Jeffrey M. Wahl, M.D.; Gerald M. Patton, M.D.; Richard Hui, M.D.; Sean Ryan, M.D.; Raghuram Mallya, M.D.; Hope Helfeld, D.O., and Marc L. Platt, M.D. Photography by: Scott Rowan

