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HARTFORD HOSPITAL IMPROVES EMERGENCY CARDIAC CARE
Heart attack survival rates may be significantly improved

(Hartford, Conn.) – A patient’s chance of surviving a severe heart attack may now be significantly improved, thanks to a newly-organized response system between Hartford Hospital and local paramedics using Medtronic LIFENET® EMS. Hartford Hospital is the only hospital in Connecticut that has implemented this system, which reduces precious time during the most critical period of a heart attack. Reducing the time it takes to treat a heart attack is crucial, as each 15-minute segment saved can help save the patient’s life.

This system – featured in the February 2009 issue of *Connecticut Medicine* (the journal of the Connecticut State Medical Society) – may significantly improve a patient’s chance of surviving a severe heart attack. Paramedics can now administer an electrocardiogram (EKG) when arriving at the site of the patient. EKG results are immediately and securely transmitted to the Hospital prior to the patient’s arrival, ensuring doctors are briefed on and prepared for the patient’s emergency. With this system in place, emergency cardiac treatment will begin instantly when the patient arrives at the hospital, bypassing several delaying steps.

Bypassing these steps saves significant time during the critical period of treating his heart attack, medically known as a “STEMI,” or a ST-elevation myocardial infarction. Each 15-minute segment saved during this period is associated with 6.3 fewer deaths per 1,000 patients, according to the National Registry of Myocardial Infarction.

“Hartford Hospital is extremely proud of being a leader in cardiac care. While we’re already one of the best hospitals in the country for treating heart attacks, we will continue to evolve to deliver the best care possible to our patients,” said Paul D. Thompson, director of Cardiology at Hartford Hospital. “With this organized response between paramedics and the Hospital, we hope to provide even better care for our community.”

Hartford Hospital’s Chest Pain Center is the only center in Connecticut to be accredited by the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Accreditation certifies patients will receive the most timely, highest standard quality of care.

About Hartford Hospital

Hartford Hospital is an 867-bed regional referral center that provides high-quality care in all clinical disciplines. Among its divisions is The Institute of Living, a 114-bed mental health facility with a national and international reputation of excellence. Jefferson House, a 104-bed long-term care facility, is also a special division of Hartford Hospital. The Hospital major centers of clinical excellence include cardiology, oncology, emergency services and trauma, mental health, women’s health, orthopedics, bloodless surgery and advanced organ transplantation. Hartford Hospital owns and operates the state’s only air ambulance system, LifeStar.

Hartford Hospital employs more than 6,600 full-time or part-time employees and a medical staff of more than 970 active staff physicians. Hartford Hospital, founded in 1854, is one of the largest teaching hospitals and tertiary care centers in New England with the region’s busiest surgery practice, and has been training physicians for nearly 130 years.

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