



**For Immediate Release**

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**UConn Health's John Dempsey Hospital to Receive the 2015 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data**

WALLINGFORD – At its 97th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize UConn Health's John Dempsey Hospital with the 2015 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data for its project, *STEMI Partnership for Patient Outcome Optimization*.

In 2009, UConn Health's John Dempsey Hospital set out to optimize outcomes for patients with a type of heart attack called a STEMI (ST-elevation myocardial infarction) through effective collaboration with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers and through thoughtful and strategic process improvements.

The hospital recognized that not only could paramedics learn to recognize a STEMI with a high degree of reliability, but they could be instrumental in real-time notification and early activation of the hospital's cardiac catheterization lab, where balloon angioplasty can be performed to open blocked blood vessels. This would optimize the hospital's readiness to implement emergent care.

The collaboration empowered EMS professionals to start providing care, and coordinate with hospital cardiac staff, as soon as they arrive at a patient's home. The hospital trained EMS providers to perform a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) and interpret the results to identify the signs of a STEMI.

Once an EMS provider has identified a possible STEMI, he or she can activate the cardiac catheterization lab from the field, allowing clinical staff to be ready sooner and eliminating any unnecessary time in the Emergency Department (ED). Some patients can bypass the ED completely.

Education for paramedics is a key component. As valued members of the team, they receive additional information from clinical staff after the procedure and learn about patient outcomes. Collaborating with EMS providers in the decision-making process and providing them with rapid feedback has fostered a patient-centered working relationship that has benefitted patients.

The process improvements of EMS education, empowerment through STEMI alert activation in the field, emphasis on early notification, and other procedural improvements has led to the hospital decreasing its median door-to-balloon time by a dramatic 45 percent since 2011. STEMI patients went from receiving a cardiac catheterization at 80 minutes to receiving it at a median time of 44 minutes.



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### **About CHA**

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.