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Bridgeport Hospital heart attack survival rate tops in state

Bridgeport Hospital's heart attack survival rate is the best in Connecticut, according to patient care data published Aug. 19 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

In addition, Bridgeport Hospital is the only hospital in the state, and one of only nine hospitals among 4,311 in the United States, with a heart attack survival rate better than the expected national rate.

"Our exceptional performance in treating heart attack patients is a testament to the skill, dedication and experience of our entire staff and their hard work in adhering to nationally prescribed clinical guidelines," says Stuart Zarich, MD, Bridgeport Hospital's chief of cardiology.

Hospitals' heart attack survival rates, as well as their compliance national quality measures for the treatment of heart attack, are tracked on CMS' Hospital Compare website, www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov. Data for the Aug. 19 posting cover the period from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.

"From the patient's arrival in the emergency department to the provision of life-saving treatment to open blocked arteries, Bridgeport Hospital has the protocols, procedures and expertise to treat heart attack patients quickly and effectively," says Dr. Zarich.

Bridgeport Hospital has been at the forefront of innovative cardiac care for more than four decades. It performed Fairfield County's first diagnostic cardiac catheterization in 1961, first cardiac bypass surgery in 1963 and first balloon angioplasty in 1981. In 1994, Bridgeport Hospital launched the Connecticut's first chest pain center in its emergency department for the rapid diagnosis and treatment of heart attacks.

"Every minute counts when someone is having a heart attack," Dr. Zarich says. "From working with ambulance crews in the field to making a rapid diagnosis in the emergency room and mobilizing our cardiac catheterization team to administer treatment, the Bridgeport Hospital team is committed to saving lives."

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Bridgeport Hospital is a member of Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), the largest and most comprehensive integrated health care delivery system in Connecticut. Yale New Haven Health System is recognized for advanced clinical care, quality, service, cost effectiveness and commitment to improving the health status of the populations it serves. Yale New Haven Health System's service area covers portions of eastern New York, the state of Connecticut and southwestern Rhode Island. Yale New Haven Health System is committed to making the best health care easier to use.

