



AMERICAN
COLLEGE *of*
CARDIOLOGY



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**Bakersfield Heart Hospital Receives ACC Chest Pain Center with
Primary PCI and Resuscitation Re-accreditation**

*Bakersfield Heart Hospital provides necessary care, resources to patients
with heart attack symptoms*

DATELINE (January 17, 2022) — The American College of Cardiology has once again recognized **Bakersfield Heart Hospital (BHH)** for its demonstrated expertise and commitment in treating patients with chest pain. **BHH** was awarded Chest Pain Center Re-accreditation with Primary PCI and Resuscitation based on rigorous onsite evaluation of the staff's ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 730,000 Americans suffer a heart attack each year. The most common symptom of a heart attack for both men and women is chest pain or discomfort. However, women are more likely to have atypical symptoms. Other heart attack symptoms include, but are not limited to, tingling or discomfort in one or both arms, back, shoulder, neck or jaw, shortness of breath, cold sweat, unusual tiredness, heartburn-like feeling, nausea or vomiting, sudden dizziness and fainting.

Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is also known as coronary angioplasty. It is a non-surgical procedure that opens narrowed or blocked coronary arteries with a balloon to relieve symptoms of heart disease or reduce heart damage during or after a heart attack.

Hospitals that have earned ACC Chest Pain Center with Primary PCI and Resuscitation Accreditation have proven exceptional competency in treating patients with heart attack symptoms and have primary PCI available 24/7 every day of the year. As required to meet the criteria of the accreditation designation, they comply with standard Chest Pain Center protocols and are equipped with a robust hypothermia program for post-cardiac arrest treatment. These facilities also maintain a "No Diversion Policy" for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients.

"**Bakersfield Heart Hospital** has demonstrated its commitment to providing **Kern County** with excellent heart care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC, chair of the ACC Accreditation Management Board. "ACC Accreditation Services is proud to award **Bakersfield Heart Hospital** with Chest Pain Center with Primary PCI and Resuscitation Re-accreditation."

Hospitals receiving Chest Pain Center with Primary PCI and Resuscitation Accreditation from the ACC must take part in a multi-faceted clinical process that involves: completing a gap analysis; examining variances of care, developing an action plan; a rigorous onsite review; and monitoring for sustained success. Improved methods and strategies of caring for patients include streamlining processes, implementing of guidelines and standards, and adopting best practices in the care of patients experiencing the signs and symptoms of a heart attack. Facilities that achieve accreditation meet or exceed an array of stringent criteria and have organized a team of doctors, nurses, clinicians, and other administrative staff that earnestly support the efforts leading to better patient education and improved patient outcomes.

“Receiving re-accreditation of our Chest Pain Center is a testament to our commitment to providing high-quality care for our heart attack patients,” said Michelle Oxford, Bakersfield Heart Hospital’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “We are honored that our teams have been recognized for their dedication and delivery of excellent heart care, and know that the true beneficiaries are the patients we serve.”

About the American College of Cardiology

The American College of Cardiology envisions a world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes. As the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team, the mission of the College and its 54,000 members is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC bestows credentials upon cardiovascular professionals who meet stringent qualifications and leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College also provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research through its world-renowned *JACC Journals*, operates national registries to measure and improve care, and offers cardiovascular accreditation to hospitals and institutions. For more, visit acc.org.

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