



CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

Christiana Care Health System Earns Joint Commission Heart Failure Certification

Christiana Care Health System's Center for Heart & Vascular Health has earned Advanced Certification in Heart Failure from The Joint Commission, the Gold Seal of Approval™ for health care quality.

The certification, developed in collaboration with the American Heart Association, recognizes hospitals that are making exceptional efforts to foster better quality of care and outcomes for heart failure patients. Christiana Care is one of just two hospitals in Delaware to receive this distinction.

Christiana Care's heart failure program underwent an extensive on-site evaluation by The Joint Commission. Reviewers interviewed staff and patients, and appraised the hospital's program on its processes and its ability to evaluate and improve care.

"This certification is a testament to the high-quality treatment we provide," said Timothy Gardner, M.D., medical director of the Center for Heart & Vascular Health and past president of the American Heart Association. "It signifies that our services have met the requirements needed to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes. It's also a signal to the community that we can effectively manage the unique and specialized needs of heart failure patients."

"Disease-Specific Advanced Certification in Heart Failure means the Center for Heart & Vascular Health does the right things and does them exceedingly well for congestive heart failure patients," adds Mitchell Saltzberg, M.D., medical director of the Heart Failure Program.

Heart failure is a condition in which the heart cannot pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, about 5.7

million people in the U.S. have heart failure, and it results in about 300,000 deaths each year.

The Center for Heart & Vascular Health is one of the most technologically advanced cardiovascular care centers in the United States. It recently earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™ for its treatment of stroke and a three-star rating for heart surgery, the highest available, from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. The American Heart Association has recognized the Center for Heart & Vascular Health with Get With The Guidelines Awards for sustained quality achievement and exceeding national standards in the treatment heart attack, heart failure and stroke.