



September 10, 2009

To: Capital Area Trauma Region

Re: STEMI Systems of Care Baseline Assessment

As a partner in the Systems of Care for ST Elevation MI patients, you recognize the importance of providing timely, effective and quality care. Recently, the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline Initiative joined with the Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council to form a Cardiac Care Workgroup for our region. The primary purpose of the Workgroup is to work with PCI Hospitals, Non-PCI Hospitals and EMS Organizations to improve the STEMI Systems of Care within the entire region.

The first step in this process requires that we gain a more detailed understanding of our current Systems. To do this, the Cardiac Care Workgroup is asking for your assistance in performing a baseline assessment of our Region's STEMI Systems of Care. Each Hospital and EMS Organization (911 response agencies only at this time) is asked to complete the appropriate baseline assessment using one of the three baseline assessment tools provided (only one assessment per Hospital or EMS Agency). The purpose of the assessment is to assess our baseline rather than to actually evaluate or measure each hospital or EMS organization. By knowing our baseline, the Workgroup can more effectively address improvements from a Regional perspective. The assessment also allows us to identify regional examples that may benefit others.

Additionally, the Quality Improvement Sub-Workgroup is assessing the data measures currently collected or calculated by each Hospital and EMS Organization. Because some Hospitals may collect data for EMS Organizations or some EMS Organizations collect data for local Hospitals, the assessment tools include many data elements group by PCI Hospital, Non-PCI Hospital, EMS Organization and System (regional). We ask that the person completing the assessment simply review each data measure and indicate whether the measure is currently being captured by your Organization. Non-applicable data measures require no response. There also is no need to enter any of your actual performance data at this time.

We sincerely appreciate the time and attention given to completion of this baseline assessment. We would like to have all assessments completed and returned by October 12, 2009. Questions regarding the assessment tool may be addressed to Louis Gonzales, louis.gonzales2@ci.austin.tx.us or Ronda Mackey, ronda.mackey@stdavids.com (co-facilitators of the QI/PI SubWorkgroup).

Robert Wozniak, MD, FACC
Cardiac Care Workgroup Co-Facilitator

Frank Zidar, MD, FACC
Cardiac Care Workgroup Co-Facilitator