



Comparison of Cardiac Program Certifications

Program Description	Acute Heart Attack Ready (AHAR) Certification	Primary Heart Attack Center (PHAC) Certification	Comprehensive Heart Attack Center (CHAC) Certification	Comprehensive Cardiac Center (CCC) Certification
Certification Award Level	<p>Certified AHARs are STEMI referring centers and are not required to perform PCI.</p> <p>Programs that meet eligibility requirements are awarded a 2-year certification for providing excellence in heart attack care, treatment, and services that include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Coronary Syndrome • Cardiac resuscitation & cardiogenic shock • Cardiac rehabilitation referral (as applicable) <p>Note: Some certified AHARs do perform PCI (less than 24hr/day)</p>	<p>Certified PHACs are STEMI receiving centers that perform Primary PCI 24/7.</p> <p>Programs that meet eligibility requirements are awarded a 2-year certification for providing excellence in heart attack care, treatment, and services that include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Coronary Syndrome • Percutaneous coronary interventions • Cardiac resuscitation & cardiogenic shock • Cardiac rehabilitation referral (as applicable) 	<p>Certified CHACs are STEMI receiving centers that provide Primary PCI and Cardiac Surgery 24/7.</p> <p>Programs that meet eligibility requirements awarded a 2-year certification for providing excellence in heart attack care, treatment, and services that include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Coronary Syndrome • Percutaneous coronary interventions • Cardiac surgeries • Cardiac resuscitation & cardiogenic shock • Cardiac rehabilitation (either on site or by referral) 	<p>Certified CCCs are STEMI receiving centers that also provide a wide array of complex cardiovascular care and interventions.</p> <p>Programs that meet eligibility requirements are awarded a 2-year certification for providing excellence in complex cardiovascular care, treatment, and services that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Coronary Syndrome • Percutaneous coronary interventions • Cardiac and vascular surgeries • Cardiac resuscitation & cardiogenic shock • Structural heart disease • Cardiac Dysrhythmias (arrhythmia) management • Advanced Heart failure, includes outpatient HF services • Cardiac rehabilitation

Program Requirements	<p>1. Access to cardiovascular expertise and provide the following services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency services • Cardiology expertise (may be in person, telemedicine, or phone consultation) <p>2. Quality improvement program that implements and utilizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert consensus guideline therapy recommendations • Performance improvement activities related to Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) • The American Heart Association's Get with The Guidelines® - Coronary Artery Disease • Performance outcomes and measures that improve quality and safety in ACS patients 	<p>1. Access to cardiovascular expertise and provides the following services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency services • Cardiology • Interventional cardiology <p>2. Quality improvement program that implements and utilizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert consensus guideline therapy recommendations • Performance improvement activities related to Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) • The American Heart Association's Get with The Guidelines® - Coronary Artery Disease • Performance outcomes and measures that improve quality and safety in ACS patients 	<p>1. Access to cardiovascular expertise and provide the following services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency services • Cardiology • Interventional cardiology • Cardiac surgery <p>2. Quality improvement program that implements and utilizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert consensus guideline therapy recommendations • Performance improvement activities related to Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) • Participation in American Heart Association's Get with The Guidelines® - Coronary Artery Disease • Performance outcomes and measures that improve quality and safety in ACS patients 	<p>1. Access to cardiovascular expertise and provides the following services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency services • Cardiology • Interventional cardiology • Cardiac and vascular surgery • Heart failure specialists • Electrophysiologist <p>2. Quality improvement program that implements and utilizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert consensus guideline therapy recommendations • Performance improvement activities in all CV services • Participates in applicable registries (4 required and 2 selected of choice) • Performance outcomes and measures for all CV care that improves quality and safety in cardiovascular patient populations
AHA Heart Attack/STEMI Systems of Care Equivalency	<p>This certification meets Level III heart attack/STEMI referring center.</p> <p><i>Systems of Care for ST-Segment–Elevation Myocardial Infarction: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association (2021).</i></p>	<p>This certification meets Level II heart attack/STEMI receiving center.</p> <p><i>Systems of Care for ST-Segment–Elevation Myocardial Infarction: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association (2021).</i></p>	<p>This certification meets Level I heart attack/STEMI receiving center.</p> <p><i>Systems of Care for ST-Segment–Elevation Myocardial Infarction: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association (2021).</i></p>	<p>This certification meets Level I heart attack/STEMI receiving center.</p> <p><i>Systems of Care for ST-Segment–Elevation Myocardial Infarction: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association (2021).</i></p>