



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 |
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| <p>Certification Award Level</p> | <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 |

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| <p>Program Requirements</p> | <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 |
| <p>AHA Heart Attack/STEMI Systems of Care Equivalency</p> | <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> |