

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contacts:
Ross Norton
(864) 512-3765
Ross.Norton1@anmedhealth.org

Cardiac care earns top award for AnMed Health team

(Anderson, S.C. – Dec. 27, 2013) – AnMed Health is one of only 197 hospitals nationwide to receive one of the American College of Cardiology Foundation's top awards for implementing a higher level of care for cardiac patients for 2013.

Called the ACTION Registry—GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award, it is a partnership between the American College of Cardiology Foundation and the American Heart Association with support from the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Society of Chest Pain Centers and the Society of Hospital Medicine.

Being named one of the country's top tier hospitals for treating heart attacks comes as no surprise to Kimberly Irby, who sees all of the moving parts to great cardiac care come together on a daily basis.

"Achieving such an outstanding award takes teamwork and our acute myocardial infarction team is passionate about providing excellent care 24/7," says Irby, AnMed Health case manager for clinical outcomes.

Success means every member of the team has to be well trained and ready to perform at the highest level from the moment help arrives until a patient is discharged, she says. She said EMS personnel have worked to sharpen their skills to treat chest pain patients and to pre-alert AnMed Health of an in-bound heart attack patient. And every one who takes over care from the time that patient arrives is also ready to perform.

"EKG, Emergency Department staff and Emergency Department physicians take pride in accurately and promptly treating heart attack patients, working closely with EMS, and pre-alerting the cath team as early as possible to reduce damage to the heart," she says. "Our cath lab team and cardiologists dedicate their lives to responding urgently to those in need. We are truly blessed to have a team that leads the nation in outstanding door-to-balloon times, who takes pride in what they do, and who are willing to sacrifice sleep and time off in order to serve the needs of others. Their passion for providing excellent care has been the heart of our success."

The nurses ensure all best practice treatments are provided to every patient throughout their care. They teach the importance of calling 911 and early heart attack warning signs to patients and community.

The award, which was also presented to AnMed Health in 2012, recognizes the system's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients, and signifies that AnMed Health has reached an aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association clinical guidelines and recommendations.