

**For Immediate Release**



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## **Stormont-Vail HealthCare Receives Heart Failure Accreditation**

(Topeka, Kan., July 13, 2010) Stormont-Vail HealthCare announces that it has received Heart Failure Accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC), an international organization dedicated to eliminating heart disease as the number one cause of death worldwide.

Heart Failure Accreditation is promoted by the Society as an Operational Model for patients across the heart failure continuum with specific emphasis on the care of the Acutely Decompensated Heart Failure (ADHF) patient. The process of care begins with the onset of the patient's symptoms, and includes engagement of Emergency Dispatch Services, Emergency Medical Services or direct presentation to the hospital. The care process continues with initial assessment and early risk stratification, expedited treatment, subsequent discharge from the Emergency Department, admission to an observation unit or inpatient status, and ultimately discharge from the facility into the community. Within this model, facilities can plan and organize the delivery of care in a systematic manner conducive to a process improvement and patient safety approach. Heart Failure Accreditation was developed using the principles of improvement science that are widely known and employed successfully in many areas.

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To earn accreditation as a Heart Failure facility, Stormont-Vail needed to exceed a set of stringent criteria and an on-site evaluation by a review team from the SCPC. The ten areas that were reviewed by the evaluating team includes:

- Emergency Department Integration with Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Assessment of Patients with symptoms of Acute Decompensated Heart Failure
- Risk Stratification of the heart failure patient
- Treatment for patients presenting to the Emergency Department in acute heart failure
- Acute heart failure discharge criteria from the Emergency Department, observation stay or inpatient stay
- Acute heart failure patient education in the Emergency Department, observation and inpatient unit
- Personnel, competencies and training
- Process improvement
- Organizational structure and commitment
- Heart failure community outreach

Stormont-Vail HealthCare is the only facility in Kansas to have achieved this designation and is one of a very small number nation-wide. To learn more about the heart failure accreditation, visit:

<http://www.scpcp.org/dnn/Accreditation/MapofAccreditedFacilities/tabid/330/Default.aspx>

### **About Stormont-Vail HealthCare**

Stormont-Vail HealthCare is an integrated health care system that has been serving the health care needs of northeast Kansas for more than 125 years. It is comprised of Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center, a 586-bed acute care hospital, and the Cotton-O'Neil Clinic, a multi-specialty physician group with more than 191 physicians. More than 4,000 employees provide care and support services for patients in the hospital and 27 other locations, including the Cotton-O'Neil Heart Center, Cancer Center, Diabetes and Endocrinology Center, Digestive Health Center, the Pediatric Care clinic and multiple

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regional primary care clinics. Stormont-Vail HealthCare is committed to its mission of improving the health of the community by providing high quality, compassionate care with state-of-the-art equipment in convenient, comfortable facilities for patients and families.

**About the Society of Chest Pain Centers**

Established in 1998, SCPC is a patient-centric nonprofit international organization focused on improving care for patients with heart disease. Central to SCPC's mission is the question, "What is right for the patient?" In response, SCPC promotes protocol-based medicine, often delivered through a chest pain center model, to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndrome and heart failure and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, SCPC provides accreditation and education to facilities striving for optimum cardiac care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. For more information on SCPC and accreditation opportunities, visit [www.scpcp.org](http://www.scpcp.org), or call toll free 1 (877) 271-4176