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## For Immediate Release

### OVERLOOK HOSPITAL RECEIVES CHEST PAIN CENTER ACCREDITATION

**SUMMIT, NJ JANUARY 11, 2008** – [Overlook Hospital's Chest Pain Center](#) has been recently accredited by the Society of Chest Pain Centers, in recognition of Overlook's ability to quickly determine and intervene when a patient is experiencing a heart attack. The accreditation of Overlook's Chest Pain Center is based on various procedures that are designed to identify patients who are experiencing heart attacks and more rapidly get them treatment.

"When a heart attack strikes, time is precious. Through the procedures we have in place at Overlook's Chest Pain Center, we are able to immediately offer treatment," said Elliott Stein, MD, director of the Chest Pain Center at Overlook Hospital.

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain, according to the Society of Chest Pain Centers.

Reducing the delay in seeking medical care after the onset of symptoms of a heart attack can minimize damage to the heart as well as the chance of death, yet most patients seek emergency care an average of two hours after first noticing symptoms of a heart attack, while others wait even longer. Other delays can occur at hospitals without chest pain centers.

The purpose of a chest pain center is to provide specialized cardiac care that better determines whether a patient is suffering from a heart attack and can be admitted for further services more quickly, or if that patient is low-risk or simply suffering from chest pain and can be treated and discharged without being admitted.

Among the procedures acknowledged by the Society's accreditation were:

- The use of electrocardiograms, or EKGs, to assess whether a patient is experiencing a heart attack, sometimes even before they come through the emergency room doors. Overlook's Emergency Department staff communicates with ambulance crews, who can transmit EKG results before reaching the hospital. Atlantic Ambulance's Mobile Intensive Care Units and Critical Care Transport Vehicles are equipped with EKGs, and can transmit data to the Emergency Department. Overlook's Emergency services staff otherwise take patients' EKGs within five minutes after coming through the door.
- Overlook's emergency staff's use of Code STEMI, in the event that a patient's EKG indicates that the patient is suffering an ST Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI), the most severe form of a heart attack. That alerts a team comprised of a nurse, a cardiac interventionalist and a technician, and a respiratory team who are called to intervene with the patient.

(more)

T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D

- A set of procedures administered to patients, such as X-rays, oxygen, medications and blood work, based on evidence-based procedures from the American College of Cardiology. The patient is then taken to the catheterization lab, where cardiologists open the coronary artery to remove deadly clots.
- In addition to having board-certified cardiologists and Emergency Department physicians, the accreditation also recognizes the education in acute coronary syndrome pathophysiology and early treatment that is offered to nurses and other staff at Overlook. Overlook also offers training and education on heart health and the symptoms of heart attacks to the community through screenings and literature.

Patients who do not appear to be high-risk are evaluated over several hours to determine whether the problem is cardiac in nature. Approximately 75 percent of all patients entering hospital emergency departments with possible heart problem symptoms are low-risk patients with chest pain who are not experiencing heart attacks.

The concept of chest pain centers arose in community hospitals in the late 1980s, as a way to reduce heart attack mortalities by providing faster treatment, according to the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Since then, it has also served as a screening tool to prevent unnecessary admission of low-risk patients into the hospital. With the rise of Chest Pain Centers came the need to establish standards designed to improve the consistency and quality of care provided to patients. The Society's accreditation process insures centers meet or exceed quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine.

As part of its Chest Pain Center, Overlook established a Chest Pain Observation Unit as part of its Emergency Department in 1994. Since then, Overlook has established itself as a national benchmark hospital regarding time to thrombolytic treatment. Overlook Hospital was also the only hospital in New Jersey selected to participate in CPORT, the original Johns Hopkins study that established emergency angioplasty in community hospitals. Overlook was also the first MICU in New Jersey to electronically transmit electrocardiograms measured outside the hospital to its Emergency Department physicians as part of its Chest Pain Center.

## **ABOUT OVERLOOK HOSPITAL**

*Part of Atlantic Health, [atlantichealth.org](http://atlantichealth.org), Overlook Hospital is a 504-bed not-for-profit community hospital with more than 1,200 attending physicians. In addition to the state's first designated Comprehensive Stroke Center, the Atlantic Neuroscience Institute offers brain tumor and epilepsy programs, neuro-interventional radiology and the northeast's first CyberKnife for the treatment of inoperable brain, spine and other tumors. Overlook has a new, expanded Emergency Department with specialty areas for pediatrics, geriatrics, chest pain, radiology, and a Fast Track System. The Frank and Mimi Walsh Maternity Center boasts 24 private mother/baby rooms and a new state-of-the-art Level III Community Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with the largest pediatric surgery group in New Jersey.*

*Overlook Hospital is a research Partner with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and is accredited by The Joint Commission. Atlantic Health is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.*

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