



For Immediate Release:

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**San Angelo Community Medical Center Recognized as
First and Only Accredited Chest Pain Center in Concho Valley**

SAN ANGELO, TX, (January 25, 2010) – San Angelo Community Medical Center (SACMC) today announced it achieved Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers, an international organization dedicated to the improvement of clinical processes for the early assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of acute coronary syndromes such as chest pain, unstable angina and heart attack.

SACMC undertook a rigorous evaluation and refinement of its cardiac care process in order to integrate the industry's best practices and newest protocols..

As an accredited Chest Pain Center, San Angelo Community Medical Center is dedicated to ensuring that patients who come to the hospital complaining of chest pain or discomfort are given the immediate treatment necessary to avoid as much damage to the heart as possible. Protocol-based procedures, developed by leading experts in cardiac care to reduce time to treatment in the critical early stages of a heart attack, are part of SACMC's commitment to excellence in cardiac care.

“Today, the accreditation process established and administered by the Society of Chest Pain Centers formalizes and standardizes this elite mark of excellence, said Brad Holland, Community's CEO.” “Accreditation is granted only to those facilities whose heart failure and chest pain center meet or exceed the criteria established by the formal Accreditation Committee.”

“People tend to wait when they think they might be having a heart attack, and that's a mistake,” said Richard Thorpe, M.D., director of Emergency Medicine. “The average patient arrives in the Emergency Department more than two hours after the onset of symptoms, but what they don't know is the sooner a heart attack is treated, the less damage to the heart and the better the outcome.”

For more information about the Society of Chest Pain accreditation process, visit <http://www.scpcp.org/dnn>. And for more information on SACMC's cardiac program, visit www.sacmc.com or call 325-947-6030

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