

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact**

Wayne Kipp  
Texsan Heart Hospital  
Vice President of Business Development  
Phone: 210.736.8003  
Fax: 210.736.8400  
Email: [wayne.kipp@texsanheart.com](mailto:wayne.kipp@texsanheart.com)  
[www.TexsanHeartHospital.com](http://www.TexsanHeartHospital.com)



*San Antonio, TX* – Texsan Heart Hospital received full Cycle II accreditation with PCI from the Accreditation Review Committee on December 29, 2008.

“Texsan’s chest pain accreditation validates our patient-focused care model – providing critical cardiac care is at the center of everything we do and this designation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers is further evidence of that,” said Craig Desmond, President and Chief Executive Officer of Texsan Heart Hospital.

The Texsan Heart Hospital Chest Pain team leader, Nurse Practitioner, Teresa Perez, added, “This accreditation is the result of many hours of hard work documenting our chest pain critical pathways to help demonstrate and assure even faster treatment for heart attack patients.”

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. The goal of the Society of Chest Pain Centers is to significantly reduce the mortality rate of these patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to the early symptoms of a possible heart attack, reduce the time that it takes to receive treatment, and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

The Chest Pain Center’s protocol driven and systematic approach to patient management allows physicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack, when treatments are most effective, and to better monitor patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event. Such observation helps ensure that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

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.

The Chest Pain Center at Texsan Heart Hospital has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations by a review team from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Key areas in which a

Chest Pain Center must demonstrate expertise include:

- Integrating the emergency department with the local emergency medical system
- Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly
- Effectively treating patients with low risk for acute coronary syndrome and no assignable cause for their symptoms
- Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures
- Ensuring Chest Pain Center personnel competency and training
- Maintaining organizational structure and commitment
- Having a functional design that promotes optimal patient care
- Supporting community outreach programs that educate the public to promptly seek medical care if they display symptoms of a possible heart attack

**About Texsan Heart Hospital:** Texsan Heart Hospital is located at 6700 IH 10 West and Crossroads Boulevard. It is part of a family of cardiac centers owned and managed by MedCath Corporation. Texsan Heart Hospital is an entire hospital dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of America's number one killer – heart disease. Texsan opened in January 2004 and features comprehensive inpatient and outpatient cardiac care, other acute-care surgical services and a 24-hour full service Heart Emergency Center

**About the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC)**

The Society of Chest Pain Centers is a patient centric non-profit international professional organization focused upon improving care for patients with acute coronary syndromes and other related maladies. Established in 1998, the Society is dedicated to patient advocacy and focusing on ischemic heart disease. Central to its mission is the question, “What is right for the patient?” In answer, the Society promotes protocol based medicine, often delivered through a Chest Pain Center model to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, the Society of Chest Pain Centers provides accreditation to facilities striving for optimum Chest Pain Center care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

For more information on the Society of Chest Pain Centers visit [www.scpcp.org](http://www.scpcp.org), or contact Robert Lipetz, Executive Director at (614) 442-5950 or [director@scpcp.org](mailto:director@scpcp.org).

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