Baylor Medical Center at Garland and Rowlett Fire Rescue to Receive Recognition for Fastest Response Times for Acute Myocardial Infarction Treatment for Quarter I 2012

Targeted regional coordination directly leads to lifesaving action

On Wednesday, August 8\textsuperscript{th} at 12:30 pm, Baylor Medical Center at Garland and Rowlett Fire Rescue will be recognized for having the fastest total combined patient treatment time for data submitted to the AHA Dallas Caruth Initiative during 1\textsuperscript{st} Quarter, 2012. Every day in Dallas County, approximately 30 people suffer a heart attack and depend on the seamless delivery of emergency medical services to increase their chances of survival and quality of life. Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of all Americans and current survival rates in Dallas County are lower than the national average. Response times vary across hospital systems and EMS providers, and that critical time can mean the differences between life, death and permanent disability.

Through a multi-million dollar grant initiative between the American Heart Association and W.W. Caruth Jr. Foundation, efforts are being made to streamline protocols between participating hospitals and EMS agencies in a collaborative effort to reduce response times, increase action and coordinate data transfer. Every second counts and unfortunately critical seconds are often lost due to ineffective coordination efforts.

On February 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2012 around noon, a 53 year old female was at home with her niece when she started to experience extreme chest pains. She became short of breath and the pain radiated down her arm. After quickly making arrangements for her niece, she called 911 at 12:13 pm. Through a series of controlled coordination between the patient, the EMS and hospital staff, symptom onset through arterial reperfusion (SOAR) was reduced to 74 minutes. This is a significant reduction in response time when compared to the median reported response times in Texas of 171 minutes, or just under three hours. The timeline of events is listed below (some times are approximates):

- 12:00 pm: A 53 year old female experienced chest pain, shortness or breath, and arm pain
- 12:13 pm: 911 is alerted and the call is received
- 12:19 pm: Rowlett Fire Rescue Arrives and ECG completed
- 12:22 pm: ECG was transmitted and cardiac cath lab was activated from field
- 12:45 pm: Patient arrives at Baylor Medical Center Garland ER
- 01:00 pm: Patient is transferred out of the emergency room to the cardiac cath lab
- 01:03 pm: Patient arrives in the cath lab and procedure is started
- 01:14 pm: Dr. Peter Frenkel opened the blocked artery, blood flow was restored to heart

The above patient scenario is a prime example of what happens when the system works; patients recognize heart attack symptoms, quickly call 911 and are treated through a coordinated effort between EMS and healthcare providers. Funds from the AHA Dallas Caruth Grant have been provided to EMS agencies to fulfill equipment gap needs related to the care of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients, as well as streamlined protocols for enhanced coordination between hospitals. All participating organizations have committed to coordinating changes in their operations to improve their ability to identify, triage and rapidly treat AMI patients.

The awards presentation will take place on Wednesday, August 8\textsuperscript{th} at 12:30 pm at Baylor Medical Center at Garland in the Auxiliary Conference Room, 2300 Marie Curie Garland, Texas 75042. Representatives from the City of Garland, City of Rowlett, Rowlett Fire Rescue, Baylor Medical Center Garland, the American Heart Association and Communities Foundation of Texas representatives will be present. Media are invited and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Claire Kinzy. Contact information is above.
About the grant initiative

A $3.5 million grant from the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation of Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) to the South Central Affiliate of the American Heart Association (AHA) aims to change those statistics. In partnership with the medical community, the collaboration has the power to transform patient care for future heart attack victims in Dallas and to position the county as a national leader in heart attack treatment and survival.

The two-year grant-funded initiative, which is managed by AHA staff, will focus on improving heart attack care in North Texas. By working closely with all 15 hospitals and 24 EMS providers in the county, the initiative will coordinate and streamline protocols reducing the amount of time it takes for heart attack patients to receive lifesaving treatment. Partners will work to ensure equipment compatibility, consistent training and uniform protocols for both transporting and treating heart attack patients across the region. The grant also will allow for the first comprehensive and in-depth analysis of total heart attack patient care and system level performance in Dallas County, which will be known as the SOAR metric—Symptom Onset to Arterial Reperfusion.¹

Specific initiatives of the program include convening EMS and hospital emergency providers to regionally standardize emergency heart attack treatment and transport protocols, report and share patient care and quality improvement data, increase professional education standards and eliminate equipment gaps so all EMS providers can identify suspected heart attack patients in the field and transmit to the hospital for expedited transport and treatment.

About The American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Our mission is to build healthier lives by preventing, treating and defeating these diseases – America’s No. 1 and No. 3 killers. We fund cutting-edge research, conduct lifesaving public and professional educational programs, and advocate to protect public health. To learn more or join us in helping all Americans, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit americanheart.org.

About Communities Foundation of Texas

Since its founding in 1953, Communities Foundation of Texas has grown to become one of the nation’s largest community foundations. Through its work, the foundation enhances the experience and impact of charitable giving. It serves as a hub for collaboration between donors, nonprofits and other funding organizations to stimulate creative solutions to key community challenges. This is accomplished through a variety of donor-advised, designated and discretionary funds, including the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation created by the generosity of Will Caruth. CFT strives to thoughtfully and effectively support its diverse donors and grantees by providing exemplary service, by demonstrating accountability, and by generating lasting impact in the community. The foundation professionally manages almost 900 component funds and has awarded over $1 billion in charitable grants.

About Baylor Medical Center at Garland

Baylor Medical Center at Garland is a fully accredited, 240-bed medical center serving the residents of Garland, Texas, and the neighboring communities of Wylie, Richardson, Rowlett, Royse City, Sachse, Mesquite and Murph. Baylor Garland provides advanced medical care in a healing, supportive environment. Recognized for comprehensive services in heart and vascular care, diagnostic and interventional imaging, women’s services, neonatal intensive care, sleep medicine, digestive disease, family medicine, and physical medicine and rehabilitation, Baylor Garland has 582 physicians on its medical staff representing a wide range of specialties.

Baylor Medical Center at Garland is located at 2300 Marie Curie Boulevard, Garland, TX 75042. For more information about the services offered at Baylor Garland, please call 1.800.4BAYLOR or visit BaylorHealth.com/Garland.

About Rowlett Fire Rescue

The Rowlett Fire Rescue Department is a dynamic organization that is dedicated to providing excellent service to our citizens on a daily basis. We are focused on placing our citizens and visitors first. The Department has a long tradition of providing high quality and cost-effective fire prevention/protection and advanced emergency medical services to the City of Rowlett.

We have a professionally staffed and well-equipped department that provides a wide range of services and programs that not only respond to emergencies but also proactively engages the community. Community involvement reaches all of the diverse groups within the City, especially the young and the elderly, those most vulnerable to fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) emergencies. For more information, call 972-412-6230 or visit http://www.rowlett.com.

Online:

- American Heart Association, www.heart.org/caruth
- Communities Foundation of Texas, www.cftexas.org

¹Arterial Reperfusion means to restore blood flow to part of the heart muscle damaged during a heart attack. It may include clot-dissolving drugs (thrombolysis), balloon angioplasty or surgery.