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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2010

## **St. Elizabeth's Hospital Heart and Vascular Center Achieves Status as Accredited Chest Pain Center**

*(Belleville, IL)* – St. Elizabeth's Hospital announces that it has received Chest Pain Center 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.

Hospitals that have received SCPC accreditation have achieved a higher level of expertise in dealing with patients who arrive with symptoms of a heart attack. They emphasize the importance of standardized diagnostic and treatment programs that provide more efficient and effective evaluation as well as more appropriate and rapid treatment of patients with chest pain and other heart attack symptoms. They also serve as a point of entry into the healthcare system to evaluate and treat other medical problems, and they help to promote a healthier lifestyle in an attempt to reduce the risk factors for heart attack.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital became the first healthcare facility in the St. Louis Metropolitan area and 70<sup>th</sup> nationwide when it received Cycle I accreditation in October of 2004. The facility was re-accredited in 2007 with full Cycle II accreditation with PCI and now again in 2010.

To become an Accredited Chest Pain Center, staff and physicians in the local EMS system, Emergency Departments, Heart and Vascular Center, Telemetry and ICU units engaged in rigorous evaluation by SCPC for their ability to assess, diagnose, and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack. To the community served by St. Elizabeth's, this means that processes are in place that meet strict criteria aimed at:

- Reducing the time from onset of symptoms to diagnosis and treatment
- Treating patients more quickly during the critical window of time when the integrity of the heart muscle can be preserved
- Monitoring patients when it is not certain that they are having a heart attack to ensure that they are not sent home too quickly or needlessly admitted to the hospital

“We are extremely pleased and proud to have earned this honored distinction,” noted Sue Beeler, Manager of the Heart and Vascular Center and Chest Pain Coordinator. “It takes a lot of hard work, persistence and commitment by our staff and physicians to sustain improvements in the process of caring for cardiac patients that result in the best cardiac treatment outcomes. We hope that our community recognizes this distinction as our commitment to providing them the best possible cardiac care.”

St. Elizabeth’s Hospital’s state-of-the-art healthcare encompasses the entire continuum of care for the heart patient and includes such focal points as dispatch, Emergency Medical System, emergency department, cath lab, quality assurance plans, and community outreach programs. By continuing to be an Accredited Chest Pain Center, St. Elizabeth’s provides the quality of care for the cardiac patient and has demonstrated its commitment to higher standards.

**About St. Elizabeth’s Hospital** The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis founded the hospital in 1875. Today, we continue their mission: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

**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.