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For Immediate Release

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Yakima Regional: Only Hospital in Washington State to receive distinguished American Heart Association accreditation for acute cardiac care

YAKIMA, WA — Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center is the only hospital in the state of Washington to receive the American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation. While other hospital programs participate in the registry database, the accreditation program — sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care — recognizes centers that meet or exceed quality of care measures for people experiencing the most severe type of heart attack, ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), in which blood flow is completely blocked to a portion of the heart.

Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center underwent numerous on-site reviews by accreditation specialists from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. Key areas in which Yakima Regional demonstrated exceptional quality of care to receive accreditation include:

- Cardiac cath lab and physician response times
- Low transfer times for patients originating from other facilities to our cath lab for cardiac intervention despite an extended geographical reach
- Advanced contingency plans to allow for extreme weather and disaster circumstances

As a result, **Yakima Regional** will display the American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation certification mark.

“Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center is thoroughly committed to providing our patients the highest quality cardiac care centered on current scientific research,” said Debra Yergen, spokesperson, Yakima Regional. “The American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation has highlighted our accomplishments and will improve the overall treatment and care for the patients we serve.”

Through its accreditation program, the American Heart Association hopes to significantly reduce cardiac death by teaching the public to recognize and react to early symptoms of a heart attack, reduce



the time it takes to receive lifesaving treatment and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment administered.

The American Heart Association's overall goal for Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation is to significantly reduce cardiac death in patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to early symptoms of a heart attack, reduce the time it takes to receive life-saving treatment and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment administered.

Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center has been an accredited Chest Pain Center since 2007. The hospital's comprehensive cardiac care includes the area's only open heart surgery program, a unique single stay unit, and the region's only certified cardiac rehabilitation program.

For more information on the American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation, visit www.heart.org/missionlifeline or www.scpcp.org.

About Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center

Yakima Regional, a 214-bed facility located in Central Washington, provides a full complement of medical services including the valley's only open-heart surgery, advanced imaging, comprehensive robotics, state-of-the-art neurosurgery, and CARF-accredited inpatient rehabilitation ranked in the Top 10 percent of the nation. Staffed by approximately 750 employees, the hospital offers a wide array of inpatient and outpatient services. The hospital provides one of only two single stay cardiac units in the State of Washington. Yakima Regional is a Level I Cardiac and Level II Stroke center, with a Level III trauma designation, and a commitment to continuous reinvestment in state-of-the-art technology.

About the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline®

Mission: Lifeline® brings together healthcare resources into an efficient, synergic system to improve overall quality of care based on the latest scientific evidence and guidelines. It addresses the entire continuum of care for STEMI patients while preserving a role for the local hospital. While there is no "one-size-fits all" solution to efficiently treat STEMI patients, **Mission: Lifeline®** develops protocols specific to the rural or urban area and provides recommendations for community level implementation of STEMI systems of care. The **Mission: Lifeline®** ideal STEMI system of care is that all parties with a vested interest treating STEMI patients — from EMS providers to cardiologists, from hospital administrators to policymakers and from third-party payers to the public — share a common belief that quality and timely patient care is the top priority. For more information about **Mission: Lifeline®**, visit www.heart.org/missionlifeline.

About the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care

The Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC) is an international not-for-profit organization committed to leading the fight to eliminate heart disease as the No. 1 cause of death worldwide. SCPC focuses on transforming cardiovascular care by assisting facilities in their effort to create communities of excellence that bring together quality, cost and patient satisfaction. As the only cross-specialty organization, SCPC provides the support needed for individual hospitals and hospital systems to effectively bridge existing gaps in treatment by providing the tools, education and support necessary to



successfully navigate the changing face of healthcare. For more information on SCPC, accreditation and certification opportunities, visit www.scpcp.org or call toll free (877) 271-4176.