



# St. Bernardine Medical Center

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Inland Empire Heart & Vascular Institute awarded prestigious STEMI designation**

*Institute equipped and specially trained to diagnose STEMI type of heart attack*

**San Bernardino, CA** – As of 8 a.m., May 1, 2009, the Inland Empire Heart & Vascular Institute (IEH&VI), a center of excellence at St. Bernardine Medical Center, officially became a STEMI center as announced by the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA). This prestigious designation means that St. Bernardine is specially equipped and trained to diagnose and treat a ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) type of heart attack, which is caused by a total blockage of a coronary artery. One critical component of this type of attack is the “90 minute door-to-balloon measure,” meaning that the blocked artery must be treated within 90 minutes of the attack, effectively decreasing the chance of permanent heart damage.

The 90 minute door-to-balloon time is only one of the many guidelines established by ICEMA that must be met in order to garner a STEMI designation. Others include licensure as a cardiac catheterization laboratory, availability of a communication system for notification of an incoming STEMI patient and a dedicated team of cardiologists, cath lab staff, emergency department physicians and staff that must be readily available within moments of a STEMI notification.

“As the leader in cardiac care in Inland Southern California, this designation offers St. Bernardine the opportunity to treat patients in their most vulnerable state by offering them access to our specially trained cardiologists, cardiac cath lab and emergency room staff,” stated Steve Barron, president of St. Bernardine Medical Center. “It is further testament of the renowned care offered at our Heart & Vascular Institute, and we’re pleased to have received this STEMI Center designation,” he concluded.

Currently the second largest heart program in Southern California, St. Bernardine Medical Center’s Inland Empire Heart & Vascular Institute recently completed a \$10 million upgrade that included the addition of a 64-slice CT scanner, electrophysiology lab and a dual-purpose lab.

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### **About St. Bernardine Medical Center’s Inland Empire Heart & Vascular Institute**

Serving the heart health needs of the people of the Inland Empire for almost 50 years, St. Bernardine’s Inland Empire Heart & Vascular Institute is located in San Bernardino, California. This year, the physicians and staff will perform 800 open heart surgeries and an estimated 7,500 diagnostic preventative procedures in the Cardiac Cath Lab. St. Bernardine Medical Center is a member of Catholic Healthcare West. Visit [www.stbernardinemedicalcenter.org](http://www.stbernardinemedicalcenter.org) for additional information.

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