

## Acute Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack)

According to the Centers for Disease Control, heart disease was the leading cause of death in the United States in 2014. The most common type of heart disease is coronary artery disease or a blocking of the blood vessels that supply the heart muscles. The heart muscles are vital in that they function as a pump to supply the body with blood. The CDC estimates that each year about 674,348 Americans experience an acute myocardial infarction or a heart attack which is a complete blockage of one or more coronary arteries.

Modifying risk factors for heart attack such as smoking, obesity, control of diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure can prevent a coronary artery disease and a heart attack. Knowing the symptoms of a heart attack assists in the early identification of a heart attack. The most common symptoms include:

- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back
- Feeling weak, light-headed, or faint
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Pain or discomfort in arms or shoulder
- Shortness of breath

If you think that you or someone you know is having a heart attack, you should call 9-1-1 immediately.

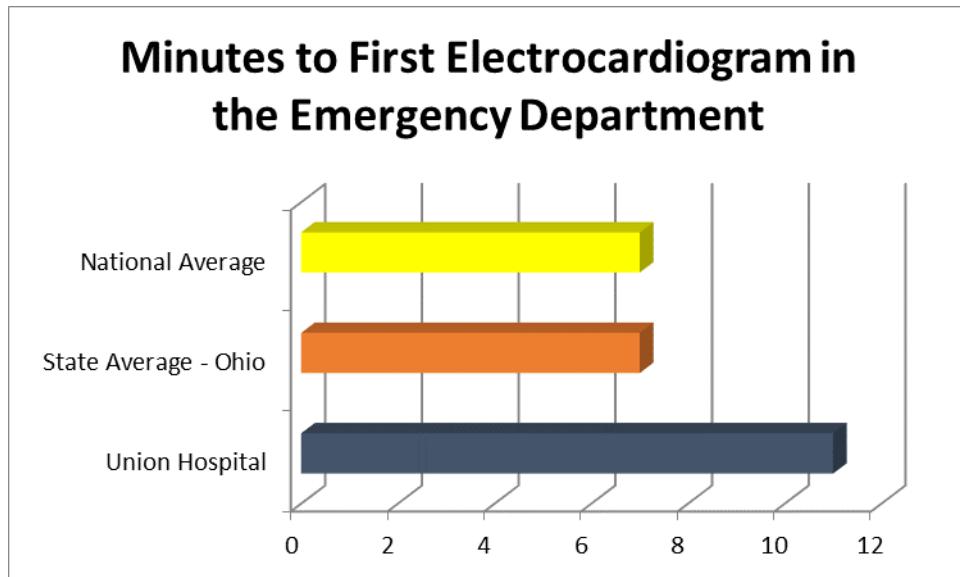
Calling 911 is the first step in activation of the American Heart Association's Chain of Survival. In addition to activation of the Emergency Medical System, it includes early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), use of early automated external defibrillation (AED) and rapid delivery of timely and appropriate care. The chain of survival is illustrated below. You can learn more about the chain of survival at [http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/heart\\_attack.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/heart_attack.htm).

### Using the Chain of Survival

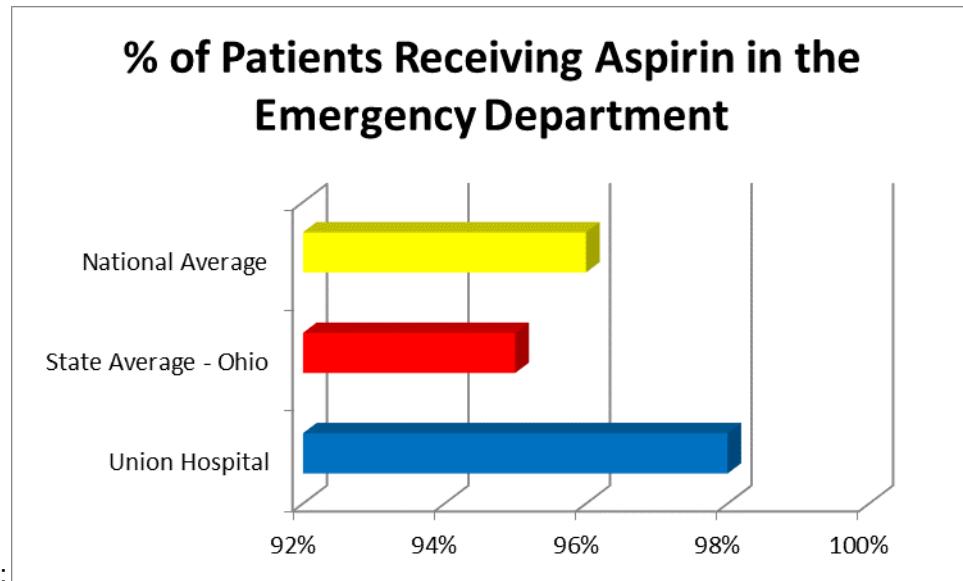


Hospitals are required to measure and report selected data related to rapid delivery of appropriate and timely care for patients experiencing a myocardial infarction or heart attack. The graphs below demonstrate Union Hospital's performance in these measures as compared to hospitals in the state of Ohio and the nation.

The electrocardiogram or ECG is an important diagnostic tool in determining how a heart attack is treated. The sooner an ECG is done, the sooner the appropriate care can be delivered. Lower number of minutes are desired. The graph below shows performance during the period of September 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:



Aspirin helps to prevent platelets from sticking together and increasing a clot in coronary arteries. This is one of the pathological developments that occur during a heart attack. Aspirin should be given to all patients experiencing a heart attack unless there is a contraindication to giving the medication. Higher percentages are desired. The graph below shows performance during the period of September 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:



Once it is determined that the patient is having a heart attack, a heart catheterization or some type of intervention to unblock blood vessels may be indicated. Ideally, no more than 90 minutes should elapse from the time a patient initially presents to the emergency department until the intervention is performed. Union Hospital does not have a cardiac catheterization lab so patients are transferred to another hospital for intervention. Lower number of minutes are desired. The graph below shows

performance during the period of September 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 and represents time from presentation to the Union Hospital Emergency Department to transfer to another facility:

