

THE MISSION:
TO IMPROVE STEMI SYSTEMS OF CARE.
THE LIFELINE:
THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION AND YOU.

GAPS IN THE CARE SYSTEM COST LIVES.

Each year, more than a hundred thousand ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) patients fail to receive the best available treatment to restore blood flow to the heart muscle. The American Heart Association created Mission: Lifeline as a response to missed opportunities caused by gaps in systems of care.

WE CANNOT CLOSE THE GAPS WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

The ultimate goal of Mission: Lifeline is to save lives by closing gaps in the systems of STEMI care, community by community and state by state. It's a massive undertaking, since most Americans currently live in communities where there is no established STEMI system of care. That's why the mission requires help from both the health care profession and from governmental entities.

THE TEAM MUST INCLUDE A VARIETY OF PLAYERS.

On the clinical side, Mission: Lifeline needs the participation of physicians, nurses, emergency medical service (EMS) providers and hospital teams.

Equally important to the mission are public health agencies and health policymakers, including departments of health, state legislators, city officials and community leaders. Their role is to promote the policy changes needed to create effective system of care.

CLOSING GAPS AT EVERY POINT ALONG THE SYSTEM OF CARE.

Here are some of the challenges to saving the lives of STEMI patients:

- Patients, family members, co-workers and the public at large must be educated to recognize the signs of heart attack and to call 9-1-1.
- Ambulances must be equipped with 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECGs) and paramedics must be trained to diagnose STEMI events and communicate data to the receiving hospital.
- STEMI patients should be transported to hospitals that offer percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI).
- PCI hospitals must develop processes to stay within the 90-minute door-to-balloon time recommended by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology.
- Non-PCI hospitals must develop protocols for timely transfer of STEMI patients to PCI hospitals.
- Emergency medical service providers (EMS) and hospital personnel at both PCI and non-PCI hospitals must develop communication systems to expedite and track the care of STEMI patients.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS THE KEY TO THE MISSION.

Mission: Lifeline won't succeed without the support and involvement of physicians, nurses, other clinicians and hospital leadership. That's why we're asking you to take the first step of registering your stemi system of care and adding it to the Mission: Lifeline directory.

Register your STEMI system of care and learn more about this lifesaving effort at americanheart.org/missionlifeline.