



UNDERSTANDING THE CARDIAC LEVELS OF CARE

Comprehensive cardiac care can best be visualized as a hub and spoke model — with shared responsibilities within the care system.

The center of the hub begins with hospitals that provide comprehensive cardiac services for every cardiovascular disorder, whereas the spokes represent organizations that provide specific cardiac services within their communities.

The Joint Commission offers different [cardiac certification levels](#) to represent the services an organization canlar

**PRIMARY BASIS FOR
CARDIAC SYSTEM OF CARE**

In 2022, the AHA published a policy statement,
[Systems of Care for ST-Segment-Elevation Myocardial
Infarction.](#)

**CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST
HEART DISEASE**

Beyond opportunities for care advancement, cardiac certification provides a common foundation for hospitals to ensure patients receive the best evidence-based care possible along the entire continuum of need.

Each level of certification requires health systems to adopt performance improvement activities related to ACS. For instance, organizations must adopt standardized performance measures and participate in applicable registries that assist in quality and performance improvement tracking.

Certification is the vehicle that develops reliable processes to assess, diagnose, and treat ACS in all its varieties. On the journey towards service excellence in

