

## Cardiac Cath Lab Program

The American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association have established treatment within **90-minutes** as the standard of care (accepted norm) benchmark for acute myocardial infarction or heart attack. *Our program was prompted by the results of a study that was published in the American Journal of Cardiology in October of 2003. This study suggests that if a person is having a heart attack and medical personnel can see that the patient is treated with cardiac catheterization within **62 minutes** of the onset of their symptoms, they have significantly increased the patient's chances for a manageable quality of life. This study also states that the goal of rapidly establishing reperfusion to the heart muscle is essential in the treatment of a heart attack.*

Utilizing currently owned state of the art equipment, advanced training, and proven ability, our Paramedics are taking the emergency care of a person having a heart attack to a new level. Our Paramedics are responsible for the initial diagnosis of a heart attack and subsequent activation of an on-call group of personnel from the first *nationally accredited Cycle 1, 2, & 3 Chest Pain Center in North Texas, and now the [first hospital in the United States to achieve Cycle 2 accreditation, North Hills Hospital, located here in NRH.](#)* By receiving early notification from our paramedics in the field, the hospital's on-call Cardiac Catheterization Team can begin to assemble and prepare for immediate, definitive care of that person having a heart attack. Since we began, the program has seen tremendous success with heart attack patients receiving life saving catheterization in nearly half the time, when compared to the national standard.

This program literally has improved the life of numerous citizens and will no doubt improve the lives of many others in the future. By using field activation of the Cardiac Catheterization Team the local hospital has been able to lower documented treatment times to a median of **44 minutes**. Now the patients are diagnosed quicker and receive more definitive medical treatment. Therefore, they have a lower incidence of death, congestive heart failure, and other adverse side effects.

The Program's success is the result of outstanding cooperation between our Medical Director, Fire Department Paramedics and Hospital Staff, and the Commitment of our Mayor and City Council to provide our Paramedics with the very best equipment available. This program has been recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with their Fire Service Award for Excellence in 2008. This program also received the 2009 J.Robert Havlick Award for Innovation in Local Government.