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JUNE 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Southeast Hospital has received the American Heart Association's Get With the Guidelines (GWTG) Heart Failure Silver-Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes Southeast's commitment to ensuring heart failure patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines founded in the latest scientific evidence.

The award was presented at a recognition event held at the hospital today. Southeast welcomed American Heart Association representative Katie Troll, director of Quality and Systems Improvement for Missouri, who presented the award to SoutheastHEALTH Cardiologist Bryan Beck, MD, medical director of Southeast Hospital's Heart Failure Team.

Southeast earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of heart failure patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and aggressive risk-reduction therapies. Before discharge from the hospital, patients also receive education on managing their heart failure and overall health.

The hospital is also recognized on the American Heart Association's Target: Heart Failure Honor Roll. Hospitals are required to meet specific criteria that improves medication adherence, provides early follow-up care and coordination and that enhances patient education.

"Patient care is our number one priority and SoutheastHEALTH is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our patients with heart failure by implementing the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines initiatives," said Ken Bateman, President and CEO.

"Providing the best, evidence-based care to all heart patients is paramount to our entire cardiac and vascular physician team and is exemplified by our commitment to invest in new technology and facilities that result in improved safety and better outcomes for all of our heart and vascular patients."

He noted these patient-centered investments recently included a new, hybrid operating suite with technology to advance treatment options for our region's critically ill heart patients, a new Heart and Vascular Pavilion designed for patient and family comfort and introducing to the region transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TMVR), a minimally

invasive approach to replacement of a narrowed aortic valve, and transcatheter MitraClip procedure which allows mitral regurgitation patients to be treated without invasive open heart surgery.

At the heart of the Heart Failure Team's work is "reducing hospital readmissions and helping patients improve their quality of life in managing this chronic condition," said Dr. Beck. "This award demonstrates our commitment and adherence to clinical guidelines to support better outcomes for heart failure patients. Our multidisciplinary Heart Failure Team worked diligently to align our practice and patient care methods with components as set forth by Get With The Guidelines Quality Achievement Award. As we progressed, we were also able to achieve Get With The Guidelines/Heart Failure Quality Plus measures and earn Honor Roll status. To achieve all three tiers the first time around is a remarkable team achievement."

According to the American Heart Association, more than 6.5 million adults in the United States are living with heart failure. Many heart failure patients can lead a full, enjoyable life when their condition is managed using best-practice guidelines.

Southeast Hospital was presented with the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure Silver-Plus Quality Achievement Award at a ceremony held June 18 at the hospital. Shown here, from left, are Bryan Beck, MD, Heart Failure Team medical director; Jan Rigdon, executive director, Cardiovascular Service Line; Ken Bateman, President and CEO; Mary Beth Corgan, heart failure nurse practitioner; and Richard Clark, executive director, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Outreach.

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