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## **Sharon Hospital Receives American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines Silver Performance Achievement Award**

**Sharon, CT** — Sharon Hospital recently received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines–Coronary Artery Disease (GWTG–CAD) Silver Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes Sharon Hospital's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of cardiac care that effectively improves treatment of patients hospitalized with coronary artery disease.

According to the American Heart Association, approximately 565,000 people suffer a new heart attack and 300,000 experience a recurrent heart attack each year. The American Heart Association's GWTG program is designed to increase the use of and adherence to the association's secondary prevention guidelines for coronary artery disease. Under GWTG–CAD, patients are started on aggressive risk reduction therapies such as cholesterol-lowering drugs, aspirin, ACE inhibitors and beta-blockers in the hospital and receive smoking cessation/ weight management counseling as well as referrals for cardiac rehabilitation before they are discharged. Hospitals that receive the GWTG–CAD Silver Performance Achievement Award have demonstrated for at least one year that 85 percent of its coronary patients (without contraindications) are discharged following the American Heart Association's recommended treatment guidelines.

"The American Heart Association applauds Sharon Hospital for its success in implementing the appropriate evidence-based care and protocols to reduce the number of recurrent events and deaths in cardiovascular disease patients," said Gregg C. Fonarow, M.D., National Chairman of the

Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee and Director of Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center. "Sharon Hospital has achieved a high level of performance in terms of implementing these life-prolonging treatments."

"We are honored to receive this award from the American Heart Association. Our staff is committed to improving cardiac care and reducing the risk of death and disability due to heart disease and stroke," said Donald Soucier, DO, Chief of Cardiology at Sharon Hospital.

"Sharon Hospital has identified improving care of the cardiac patient as one of our quality goals. We are dedicated to providing care that's ranked among the best in the country. The American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines program is helping us accomplish our goal; to improve the long-term outcomes of our cardiac patients," said Denise Fink, RN, MPH, Chief Quality Officer at Sharon Hospital. "We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in cardiac care."

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Photo Caption: The American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines Silver Award was presented to Dr. Michael Parker, Chief of Staff and Dr. Joel Danisi, Chief of Medicine on June 23, 2009 at Sharon Hospital's Department of Medicine meeting.