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PRESS RELEASE

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Silverton Hospital Implements American Heart Association Program

Silverton – With approximately 5 million people in the United States living with heart failure, and nearly 550 thousand new cases being diagnosed each year, heart health is a growing concern for many Americans. Silverton Hospital's Cardiac Health Improvement Program (CHIP) has launched a new program in cooperation with the American Heart Association so that local residents can get the care they need.

The *Get With The Guidelines*SM program is an American Heart Association initiative that provides hospital staff with proven, evidence-based guidelines to prevent heart failure patients from future hospitalizations. Silverton Hospital, recently named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® has now received recognition from the American Heart Association as a *Get With The Guidelines – Heart Failure* (GWTG-HF) hospital.

Heart failure is a condition where the heart cannot pump enough blood and oxygen to meet the needs of other body organs. "Heart failure does not mean that the heart has stopped, but that it cannot pump blood the way that it should," said Janna Liewergen, R.N., CHIP Coordinator. "It's a common misconception."

The most common causes of heart failure are coronary artery disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Under the hospital program, heart failure patients are started on aggressive risk reduction therapies such as ACE inhibitors, beta-blockers, cholesterol-lowering drugs, aspirin and diuretics while they're in the hospital. They also receive lifestyle management education, dietary, alcohol/drug and tobacco counseling and referrals for to community resources before being discharged.

"The full implementation of acute and secondary prevention guidelines is a critical step in saving the lives of heart failure patients," said Gregg Fonarow, M.D., chairman of the GWTG Science Sub-committee and director of Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center.

"Silverton Hospital is dedicated to making our care for heart failure patients among the best in the country," said Liewergen. "Implementing the American Heart Association's *Get With The Guidelines – HF* program will help us accomplish this by making it easier for our professionals to improve the long-term outcome for patients."

The heart failure module, developed with support from an unrestricted educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline, is being implemented in hospitals around the country.

For more information on Silverton Hospital's CHIP program, call Janna Liewergen, RN at 873-1780 or visit <http://www.silvertonhospital.org/services/chip>. For more information on Get With The Guidelines, visit americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines.

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