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## **Emergency Department is Red Hot During Ice Storm, Sets Heart Attack Treatment Record**

*Patient had Blood Flow Restored in 40 Minutes – Under Half Recommended Standard*

**HAMILTON** -- While most of Southwest Ohio was taking it slow and creeping through an ice storm Tuesday morning, the Emergency Department at Fort Hamilton Hospital was taking it fast as usual. In fact, they were taking it faster than ever – much to the delight of a local heart attack victim.

The Emergency Department broke its own record by getting a patient into the catheterization lab in only 12 minutes, which was two minutes better than their previous best and 48 minutes better than the recommended national standard. Within 40 minutes of arrival, the patient had a stent placed and was out of cardiac distress.

“The life squad called ahead said this patient could be having a heart attack,” said Pam Klaber, Clinical Manager for the Emergency Department. “Within three minutes of their arrival, they were hooked up to an EKG machine, their IV had been started and they had been given an aspirin.”

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Rebecca Perry, DO, was the Emergency Department physician who assessed the patient and determined that a quick trip to the cath lab was in order. Then Daniel Eckert, MD, and the team in interventional cardiology took over the patient's care.

“The American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology say it's critical to get blood flow restored to heart as quickly as possible,” said Ken Peterman, Cath Lab Director. “The goal is 90 minutes from time the patient hits ED door until they have a stent placed or balloon angioplasty. Our average for the last 12 months is 53 minutes and the 40 minutes we did today is just phenomenal.”

“The reason they have been exceeding their best times in the cath lab is we have been having our best times in the Emergency Department,” Klaber said.

Ironically, Tuesday was February 1, the first day of Heart Month. It is important to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack and to get screened to determine if you may be at risk for a heart attack or stroke. For more information and upcoming screening dates, go to [www.allheartallthetime.org](http://www.allheartallthetime.org).

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