

# Lahey Among the Best in the Nation

Lahey Clinic has one of the best survival rates nationally for patients having acute heart attacks, according to data compiled by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Lahey is one of only two hospitals in Massachusetts—and one of only nine in the country—with mortality rates better than the national average.

In August, CMS released data on mortality rates for heart attacks, or acute myocardial infarction (AMI) on the Hospital Compare Web site ([www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov)). Mortality rates are defined as a patient's risk of dying after an acute heart attack while hospitalized or soon after discharge from the hospital.

The national mortality for acute heart attacks in 2006-2007 was 16.1 percent. Lahey's mortality rate was 12.6 percent for the same time period.

The formula used by CMS in its calculations included data from 35 million Medicare patients treated at more than 4,000 hospitals across the country. Some 198 Medicare patient records from Lahey were examined by CMS.

**“We are delighted with these findings,” said David M. Barrett, MD,** president and chief executive officer. “Our high rating demonstrates again that Lahey's team approach to care, coupled with strict adherence to best practices, translates into high quality care for our patients.”

CMS has released heart attack information for hospitals in the past by simply ranking individual hospitals as better, worse or no different than the national average. Until now, the agency has excluded mortality rates for individual hospitals.

“Public reporting of outcomes provides additional incentive to continually examine and deliver the best treatments for heart attack patients,” said Richard W. Nesto, MD, chair, Cardiovascular Medicine, and chair, Division of Internal Medicine.

Lahey Clinic has developed a comprehensive program to deliver heart attack care as quickly as possible. The key elements of the program include application of treatment protocols, a high skill level of cardiologists who perform emergency angioplasty, and optimal discharge planning to ensure patients go home with the proper treatments.

