

Acute Coronary Syndrome



What is a Comprehensive Cardiac Center?



North Kansas City Hospital (NKCH) is accredited through the Joint Commission as a Comprehensive Cardiac Center. This national certification was awarded based on the cardiac care we provide at NKCH.



What would **YOU** do if you met a patient having symptoms of a heart attack?

It is possible that a person may walk into North Kansas City Hospital having symptoms of a heart attack.

All NKCH employees need to know where to send the person having symptoms of a heart attack to provide the quickest care.



What are the symptoms of a heart attack?

- Chest pressure, squeezing or discomfort
- Back pain
- Trouble breathing
- Sweating
- Feeling of fullness in chest or stomach
- Nausea or upset stomach
- Pain that travels down one or both arms
- Jaw pain
- Fatigue or tiredness
- Nervousness or worry



It is important to remember -

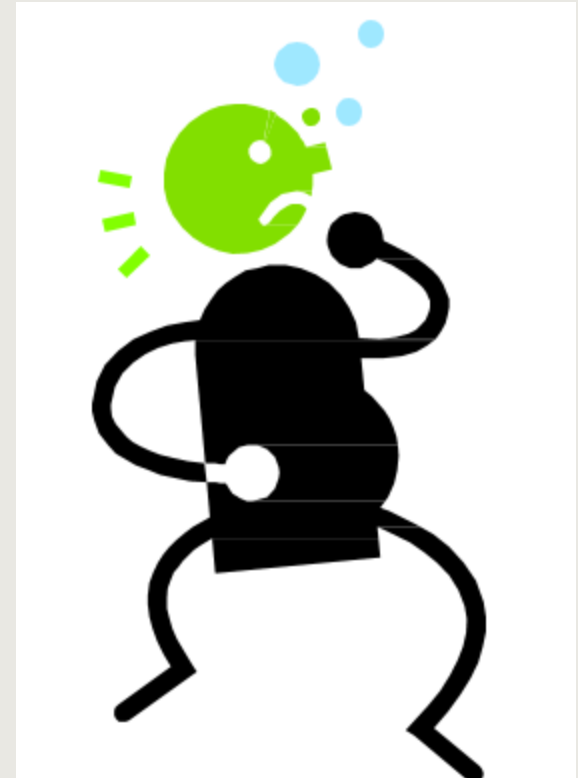


- Some people may have no symptoms
- Others may have just one or two symptoms
- Some may have many symptoms

Many people don't know they are having a heart attack

Even when someone has symptoms, they often ignore the fact that they may be having a heart attack.

It is human nature to deny the worst and assume the symptoms are only indigestion.



Older People

Older people may have different symptoms:

- Weakness
- Fatigue
- Dizziness
- Disorientation
- Trouble breathing
- Nausea or stomach pain
- Back pain
- Lightheadedness
- Rapid heartbeat



Women and Patients with Diabetes may have different symptoms

Women are also less likely to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack and seek treatment.



The most common symptoms of heart attack in women are:

- Middle or upper back pain
- Neck or jaw pain
- Lower chest or upper stomach pain
- Trouble breathing with or without chest pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Indigestion or upset stomach
- Loss of appetite
- Weakness or fatigue
- Dizziness



Diabetics

Diabetics can have nerve damage, so they may have *no pain* during a heart attack.

Symptoms a diabetic may experience include:

- Mild chest pain or pressure
- Sudden trouble breathing
- Sweating
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Indigestion or heartburn
- Weakness
- Lightheadedness
- Tiredness or lack of energy



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What is EHAC?

DID YOU KNOW HEART ATTACKS HAVE BEGINNINGS™?

- Like other diseases, heart attacks have early signs & symptoms.
- THESE "BEGINNINGS" OCCUR IN OVER 50% OF PATIENTS.
- However, if recognized in time, these "beginnings" can be treated before the heart is damaged!

How can you prevent a heart attack?

Understand the risk factors and see a doctor for early diagnosis.

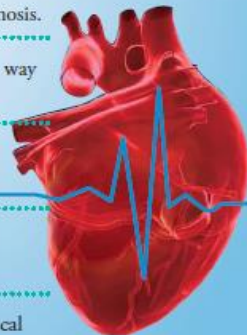
Learn the signs and symptoms. There is a difference in the way heart attacks occur in men and women.

Take the Early Heart Attack Care™ (EHAC®) Pledge to save a life.

Be alert for a heart attack in yourself or someone in your vicinity. Becoming an active bystander could save a life!

When in doubt, call 9-1-1. First responders have the medical technology to quickly save a life.

EHAC NOT ONLY SAVES A LIFE, IT SAVES THE QUALITY OF A LIFE!



Early Heart Attack Care (EHAC) education asks you to learn the signs and symptoms of a heart attack so you can become an active bystander to save a life – even if it's yours.

YOU can make a difference!

If you see anyone at NKCH having symptoms of a heart attack or stating “I just don’t feel right” immediately call ext. 13200 for the STAT team.

Stay with the person until the STAT team arrives



Outside the Hospital

If the person experiencing symptoms of a heart attack is **OUTSIDE** of the hospital (in the parking garage), the STAT Team is activated by *calling the **NKCH Operator at "0" or 691-2000.***



By working together, we can make a difference in the rapid treatment of patients having a heart attack

