



St. Mary's Hospital Cardiology Services

A History of Care

St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center has a long track record of providing quality care to patients in its west Green Bay and Northeastern Wisconsin service area, and cardiology services has been a part of that comprehensive health care offering for many years.

More recently, St. Mary's expanded its cardiology capabilities to include a wider range of inpatient and outpatient services designed to better serve the community. This integrated approach provides patients with continuity of care, ranging from diagnosis through treatment and rehabilitation.

The expanded capabilities in cardiac services are part of St. Mary's commitment to providing growth in patient care to the west Green Bay population. With hospitalist physicians on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, St. Mary's offers a full range of cardiac services with the exception of open-heart surgery.

Diagnostic Capabilities

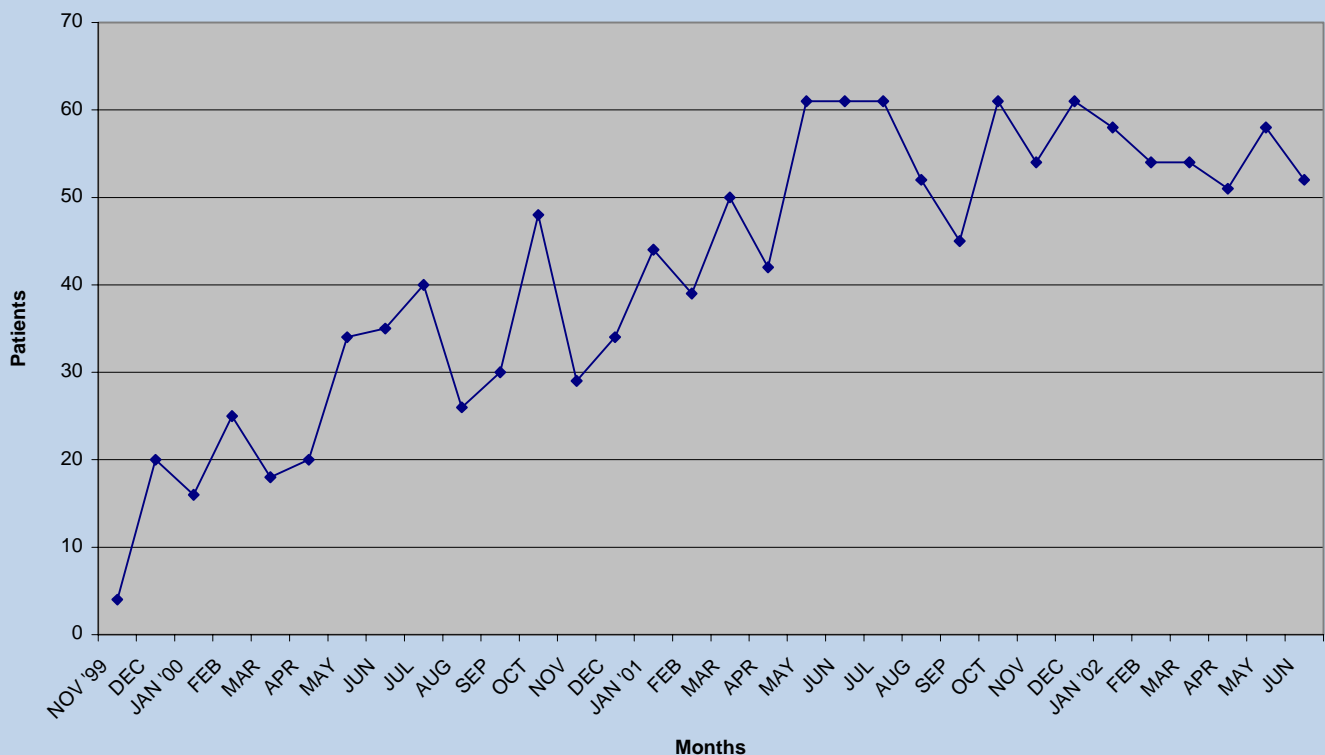
St. Mary's offers a wide range of advanced technology to provide physicians with the tools they need to make fast and accurate diagnoses.

Nuclear Medicine – This heavily utilized cardiac tool provides imaging of the functioning heart and is usually coordinated with stress testing. Nuclear medicine is generally one of the first diagnostic tools used for patients with chest pain, episodes of dizziness or shortness of breath, and it may provide an indication of the need for interventional work.

Stress Testing – Often utilized in tandem with other tests, this physical exertion of the heart provides physicians with more of the information they need for diagnosing cardiac issues. For those patients who are unable to physically increase their energy output for testing purposes, pharmacological agents can be used to produce the same effect.

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Cardiac Cath Lab Volume



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Echocardiography – This noninvasive tool uses ultrasound technology to view the heart and the blood flow through its chambers. Additional testing capabilities are available in combination with other technologies.

Additional tools – Patients who experience occasional periods of irregular heartbeats can be fitted with a portable monitor that can be worn home in an attempt to capture an episode on an EKG graph.

Catheterization Lab

The St. Mary's Cardiac Catheterization Lab, open since 1999, has become a highly utilized facility for the community, with about 2,000 diagnostic heart catheterizations performed in its first three years. In addition, elective angioplasties have been offered to the public since early in 2001, and pacemaker implants are common procedures.

Inpatient and Outpatient Services

The St. Mary's inpatient and outpatient departments work collaboratively with the ancillary services to provide care for all Cardiac Services patients.

- Cardiac catheterization patients receive care in the Outpatient Nursing Center.
- Angioplasty stent patients are admitted to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit for six hours, then to a general patient room for an overnight stay.
- Acute Coronary Syndrome patients receive care in both the ICU and the medical floor.
- Multi-disciplinary approach to recovery includes Cardiac Rehabilitation, Nutrition, Physical Therapy, Social Services and General Medical departments of the hospital.
- The St. Mary's Vascular Center brings together primary care physicians and specialists to more effectively manage the care of patients that have peripheral vascular disease in addition to symptoms of cardiac disease. A coordinating nurse helps these patients navigate the health care system, and helps them follow through on their plan of care.

Emergency Center and Chest Pain Center

The Critical Decision Treatment Unit (CDTU) is the entry point to cardiac services for patients that come

through the Emergency Department. The unit helps narrow down the initial diagnosis for patients experiencing heart issues using a variety of technologies and tests.

In the event of chest pain or acute MI (heart attack), the patient is transferred to the Cardiac Catheterization Lab for further tests.

Other Outpatient Services

The Cardiac/Vascular Rehabilitation Department works with patients to educate and reinforce healthy lifestyles, and to provide a central location for them to follow their rehab programs.

- After discharge from any area medical facility, patients with a physician referral can utilize the department for supervised exercise, education and support during their rehabilitation.
- Patients with no history of cardiac issues, but with possible risk factors, can utilize the department's services for health maintenance goals with a physician referral.
- Patients with arterial disease outside of the heart can be referred to the department for a more systematic approach to exercise, based on specific protocols and education.
- Pulmonary Rehab program offers slow-moving exercise and education designed for patients with lung conditions.

Community Service

Members of the hospital staff conduct cardiac and vascular health screenings through *A Woman's Place*, the resource center located on the St. Mary's campus, and serve as an educational liaison with the community.

- Resource materials are available to the public at *A Woman's Place*.
- Public speakers.
- Participants in the American Heart Walk from St. Mary's consistently are among the most numerous and raise the most money in Northeastern Wisconsin.

For more information, call Dan Doran at (920) 498-4121.

