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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **FAST Treatment for Heart Attacks**

Getting fast medical treatment during the first few hours of a heart attack could save your life. Hunterdon Medical Center treats heart attack patients with the most effective and advanced procedure available—emergency angioplasty—and performs this lifesaving treatment in record time.

Heart attacks are caused when blocked arteries prevent the heart from receiving oxygen.

During emergency angioplasty, doctors inflate a balloon to open the clogged artery and insert a stainless steel wire mesh, called a stent, to keep the artery open.

“It’s the most effective way to treat an acute heart attack and improve long term survival,” explains Andrey Espinoza, MD, FACC, FSCAI, interventional cardiologist at HMC.

ER staff evaluate patients experiencing symptoms of a heart attack within minutes of arrival. Most heart attack patients are transferred immediately to the catheterization lab for emergency angioplasty.

HMC’s Cardiac Catheterization Lab earned national recognition for its exceptional “door-to-balloon” time (from ER arrival to emergency angioplasty) of less than 60 minutes. This far exceeds national guidelines of a 90-minute response.

Other heart attack treatments (such as clot-busting drugs) exist, but medical research has shown that emergency angioplasty results in less damage to the heart and reduced risk of stroke and subsequent heart attack.

“The procedure is very safe,” says Kathy Morgan, RN, Manager of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab. “Patients are up and out of bed usually the next morning. In fact, they are usually out of the hospital within two to three days.”

#### About Hunterdon Medical Center

Hunterdon Medical Center is a 176-bed non-profit community hospital, providing a full range of preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic inpatient and outpatient hospital and community health services. HMC has partnered with Pegasus Emergency Group to deliver top-ranked emergency services to Hunterdon and surrounding counties. HMC’s Emergency Department consistently ranks 99<sup>th</sup> percentile in Press Ganey

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customer satisfaction scores for hospitals with 30,000 – 40,000 patients a year in New Jersey.

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About Pegasus Emergency Group

Pegasus Emergency Group is a rapidly growing emergency medicine company with a commitment to excellence. We are dedicated to exceptional patient care, outstanding opportunities for physicians, and superb performance for our partner hospitals. With 100% growth in the last year alone, stay tuned for more exciting news about the company.

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