



A N O P E N L E T T E R *from* C A P E F E A R V A L L E Y H E A L T H :: *part 3 in a* S E R I E S

## *this is* YOUR HOSPITAL... NATIONALLY *recognized* HEART CARE

Did you know that when a patient is having a heart attack, nearly 85 percent of the damage occurs in the first two hours?

Many people think they have time to take a wait-and-see attitude. And that can be deadly.

That's why we work so hard to educate people on the subtle danger signs of a heart attack and the importance of acting immediately by calling 9-1-1.

As a nationally accredited Chest Pain Center, we've put a lot of effort into helping heart attack patients get the heart- and life-saving treatments they need as quickly as possible.

We have even added special equipment to our ambulances so we can transmit EKG results to Emergency Department physicians in real time. This allows the physician to quickly diagnose a heart attack and alert the Cath Lab team so they can be ready when the patient arrives.

We have also affiliated with #1 ranked Cleveland Clinic for cardiac surgery. Our own open-heart surgery program was awarded a "3 star" rating, the highest rating possible, from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons. You'll find our cardiovascular surgeons are experienced in the latest techniques, including off-pump bypass surgery and minimally invasive valve surgery.

Keeping your heart healthy is just as important to us. Our nationally certified Cardiac Rehabilitation Program helps patients reduce their risk factors with a medically prescribed and supervised exercise and education program.

No matter whether you arrive at Cape Fear Valley by ambulance or visit us for a scheduled outpatient procedure, you'll be putting your heart in CAPEable hands.

Mike Nagowski  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Chris Aul, M.D., Family Physician  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



# CAPE FEAR VALLEY HEALTH



Cape Fear Valley has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™

*The Heart & Vascular Center's accreditations and certifications demonstrate our commitment to quality care.*

**CHEST PAIN CENTER ACCREDITATION** :: Only accredited Chest Pain Center between the Triangle and the coast.

**OPEN HEART SURGERY "3 STAR RATING"** :: Highest rating possible by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. The rating puts us in the top 15% in the nation.

**AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION AWARD** :: For high quality care to heart attack and cardiac resuscitation patients

**HEART FAILURE DISEASE SPECIFIC CERTIFICATION** :: The Joint Commission



[www.capefearvalley.com](http://www.capefearvalley.com)