A Tale Of Two Hearts
TWO DIFFERENT JOURNEYS FROM THE DOOR TO BALLOON

Does Meet
the “Door To Balloon” Quality Guidelines

1. Woman at home grabbing at chest calls ambulance
2. Ambulance arrives and picks up for transport to the hospital
3. While in the ambulance, ECG performed and transmitted to hospital
4. ED Doctor diagnoses heart attack and alerts cardiac response team
5. Patient met by cardiac response team and rushed off for treatment
6. Start procedure

Total Elapsed Time:
Less Than 90 Minutes*

Endorsed Measure –
< 90 minutes
Door to Balloon time
NQF Measure No. 0163

Does Not Meet
the “Door To Balloon” Quality Guidelines

4. Ambulance arrives at the hospital
5. ED Doctor orders ECG
6. ED Doctor diagnoses heart attack
7. Interventional Cardiologist then pages the cardiac response team
8. Patient brought in for treatment by cardiac response team
9. Start procedure

Total Elapsed Time:
90 Minutes To 2 Hours

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

“> 90 minutes after arrival = 42% higher risk of dying in the hospital,”
Dr. Robert L. McNamara, M.D.

2003 - 2013: Death rate from coronary heart disease fell 38%
Door to Balloon time is one of the advances contributing to the reduction in mortality rate

* Procedural timeline as published by the American College of Cardiologists. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2006;46(7):1236-1241