



Chandler Regional Medical Center  
Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

Members of CHW

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LOCAL CARDIAC CTA EXPERT AT CHANDLER REGIONAL AND MERCY GILBERT MEDICAL CENTERS PRESENTS FINDINGS OF CALCIUM SCORING STUDY TO SOCIETY OF CARDIAC COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

**CHANDLER, and GILBERT, Ariz. (August 26, 2010)** – According to research presented by Roger Bies, M.D., F.A.C.C., director of the Cardiac CTA program at Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society of Cardiac Computed Tomography (SCCT) in July, the use of coronary artery calcium scoring in emergency room workups of low-risk chest pain patients may reduce costs and missed heart attacks.

Emergency room visits for chest pain cost more than \$10 billion annually in the U.S., yet the incidence of coronary artery disease in this patient population is very low, ranging from only 15 to 25 percent.

Dr. Bies and other researchers at Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers compared the cost of traditional risk assessment in a control group of retrospective patients to calcium scoring in prospective patients seen in the hospitals' emergency rooms. The prospective group consisted of 609 patients, age 40 and above, with chest pain but no known heart disease. These patients had TIMI scores of 0, 1, 2 and normal cardiac enzymes and EKG results. "Our emergency room doctors discussed each patient's calcium score result with the cardiologist on call," says Dr. Bies. He notes that the outcomes were then compared to the control group of 405 retrospective patients who met criteria for inclusion and were treated the year prior to the addition of the calcium scoring protocol.

The data presented compared length of stay, hospital charges and clinical outcomes for the two groups of patients and concluded the following:

- Sixty-three percent of patients in the prospective group had a calcium score of zero, and 61 percent were discharged following a negative calcium score, while only 11 percent of patients in the control group were discharged.
- Patients with positive calcium scores were admitted and stayed an average of 0.66 days, compared to 1.67 days for the control group.

- Per patient charges for the calcium scored group were reduced by \$8,663, resulting in annual savings of \$5 million for each hospital.

“The addition of calcium scoring to emergency room triage of low-risk chest pain patients can reduce hospitalization and costs,” said Patty White, president and CEO of Chandler Regional Medical Center, and interim president and CEO of Mercy Gilbert Medical Center. White added that emergency room workups of patients with positive scores may also reduce the incidence of missed myocardial infarctions, however further research is required to validate routine use.

To learn more, please visit our websites at [ChandlerRegional.org](http://ChandlerRegional.org) or [MercyGilbert.org](http://MercyGilbert.org).

### **About Chandler Regional Medical Center**

Chandler Regional Medical Center is a 225-bed, acute-care, not-for-profit provider of emergency care, maternal child services, cardiovascular services, wound healing, cancer treatment, diabetes treatment, and diagnostic services. It is located at 475 S. Dobson Road (corner of Dobson Road and Frye Road) in Chandler. For more information, please visit [www.chandlerregional.org](http://www.chandlerregional.org) or call (480) 728-3000. Chandler Regional Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities please visit [www.chwcareers.org/arizona](http://www.chwcareers.org/arizona). For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414.

### **About Mercy Gilbert Medical Center**

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is located at the intersection of Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 (south of Pecos Road and east of Val Vista Drive). Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is a four-story, full-service acute-care facility with 212 beds. For more information, please visit [www.mercygilbert.org](http://www.mercygilbert.org) or call 480.728.8000. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities, please visit [www.chwcareers.org/arizona](http://www.chwcareers.org/arizona). For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414.

### **About Catholic Healthcare West**

Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), headquartered in San Francisco, Calif., is a system of 41 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. Founded in 1986, it is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health care systems and the largest private hospital system in California. CHW is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable healthcare services with special attention to the poor and underserved. The CHW network of nearly 10,000 physicians and approximately 54,000 employees provides health care services to more than five million people annually. In 2009, CHW provided nearly \$1.2 billion in charity care, community benefit, and unreimbursed patient care. CHW facilities in Arizona include Chandler Regional Medical Center, Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute, CHW Urgent Cares in Ahwatukee, Gilbert and Queen Creek, Warner Outpatient Surgery and the Arizona Orthopedic Surgical Hospital. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.chwHEALTH.org](http://www.chwHEALTH.org).