

Sharon Regional Health System

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4/28/2014 12:00:00 AM EASTERN

Updated: 4/28/2014 9:03:20 AM EASTERN

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Neshannock man grateful for life-saving heart attack treatment at Sharon Regional



“Everyone with Noga (ambulance) and at Sharon Regional did everything right,” recalls Jack Warneck of his late September heart attack while in his Neshannock Township, Lawrence County home. “The doctors, cardiac care nurses, paramedics, and my wife, Dolly, saved my life that day.”

Jack endured heart burn and chest pain for a little while when Dolly called Noga Ambulance Services. A Noga paramedic team arrived shortly, assessed Jack, determined he was having a heart attack, and advised taking Jack to Sharon Regional’s heart attack treatment center.

Studies show that people having a heart attack have only about 60 minutes to get a blocked artery opened. The American College of Cardiology and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

have established guidelines for how soon a hospital must treat a patient having a heart attack once they arrive to the hospital.

The guidelines recommend that patients be taken to the cath lab to have their artery opened within 90 minutes of arrival to the hospital. This is known as the "door to balloon" time. Jack’s “door to balloon” time was 56 minutes, well below the national guidelines.

At Sharon Regional, Jack was quickly assessed by the heart attack treatment team, the cath lab team was alerted, and within a very short time he had an angioplasty performed by Michael Burley, M.D., FACC, board certified interventional cardiology. During the Sharon Regional procedure, Dr. Burley inserted a stent to

open a clogged artery.

After discharge, Jack completed several months of cardiac rehabilitation at Sharon Regional and is continuing a regular exercise routine.

“Everyone we came in contact with at Sharon Regional was very helpful, nice, and caring,” adds Jack. “I am very thankful the Noga team took me to Sharon Regional.”

For more information on heart treatment at Sharon Regional call 724-983-3882.

Sharon Regional identified as heart attack treatment center by regional EMS council

Heart attack treatment protocols issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health encourage pre-hospital (ambulance) providers to take their heart attack (STEMI) patients to hospitals that offer emergency angioplasty.

EMMCO West, Inc., northwest Pennsylvania’s emergency medical services council, has identified Sharon Regional Health System as the only STEMI hospital in Mercer, Lawrence, and Crawford counties, based on its advanced technology, emergency response capabilities, and physician expertise in emergency heart attack treatment. STEMI refers to ST segment elevation myocardial infarction, the deadliest type of heart attack.

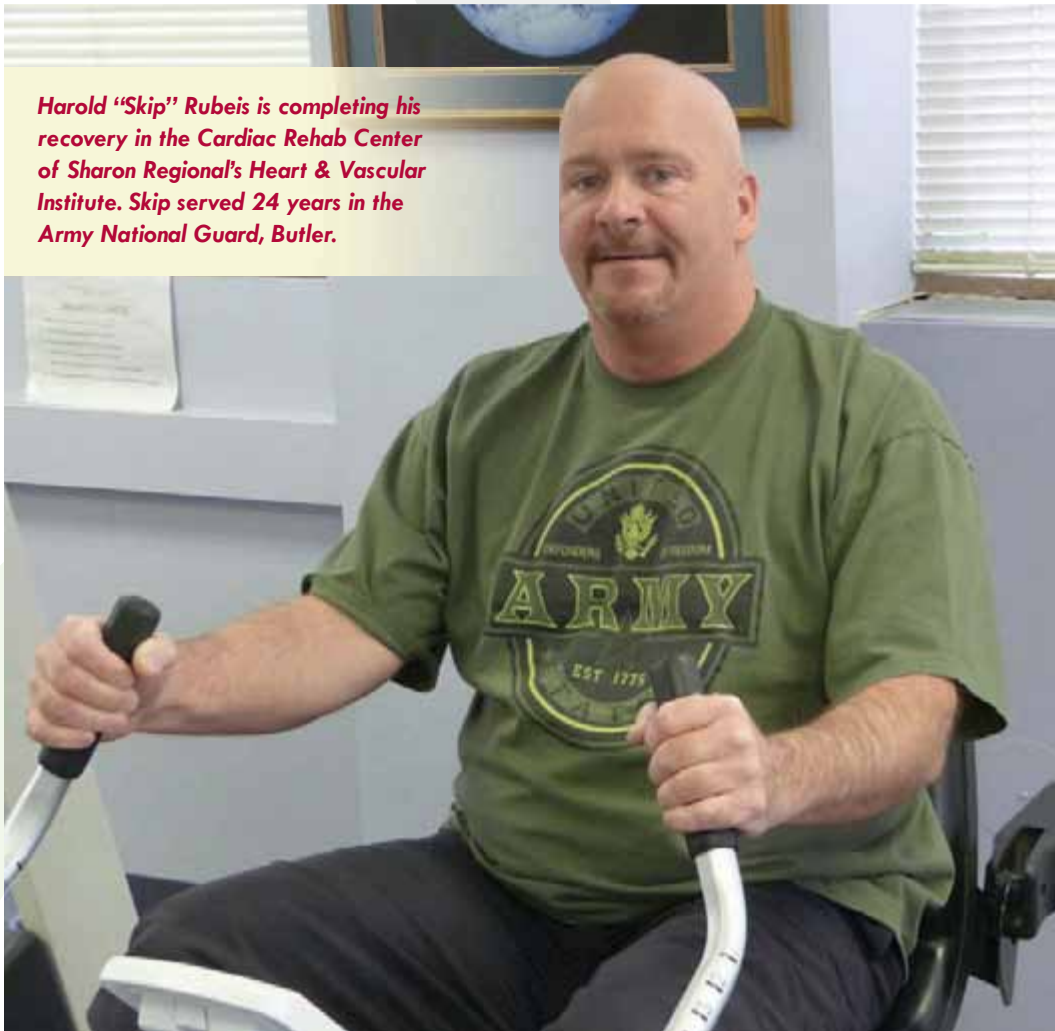
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New Castle man grateful for rapid heart attack treatment

New Castle ambulance squad chose Sharon Regional

Harold "Skip" Rubeis is completing his recovery in the Cardiac Rehab Center of Sharon Regional's Heart & Vascular Institute. Skip served 24 years in the Army National Guard, Butler.



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The heart attack symptoms of chest pain and acid reflux started at work for Harold "Skip" Rubeis, assistant manager of a Wine & Spirits Store in Neshannock Township, Lawrence County. A store clerk called Lawrence County 9-1-1, Noga Ambulance Service was dispatched, and Skip, 53-years-old, was quickly assessed with an electrocardiogram (EKG) by the ambulance team.

Noga staff Andy Pratt and Daniel Rehder asked Skip if he had a hospital preference.

"I only wanted to get rid of the sharp pains," Skip recalls of that February day. "The Noga paramedic (Pratt) chose Sharon Regional for its heart attack treatment abilities."

"I am very happy I was taken to Sharon Regional," Skip says. "It was a very scary experience but everyone was fantastic. All the nurses, doctors---everybody. I was taken care of very well."

After quickly recognizing the EKG the Noga crew alerted Sharon Regional's Emergency Care Center who activated the cardiac response team, cath lab team, and Ronnie Mignella, M.D., FACC, board certified interventional cardiologist. Dr. Mignella performed an angioplasty, a procedure used to open narrow or blocked coronary arteries.

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College of Cardiology and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services have established guidelines for how soon a hospital must treat a patient having a heart attack once they arrive to the hospital. The guidelines recommend that patients be taken to the cath lab to have their artery opened within 90 minutes of arrival to the hospital. This is known as the "door to balloon" time.

In this case with Skip, Sharon Regional's "door to balloon" time of 39 minutes was well below the national guidelines and one of the lowest times at the Health System. This was all to Skip's benefit.

After a four-day stay in the hospital, Skip is recovering at home and recently started cardiac rehabilitation at Sharon Regional.