



News: For Immediate Release  
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## **In Honor of American Heart Month, MedChi Recognizes and Supports Cardiologists**

BALTIMORE - February 22, 2024 - As February is **American Heart Month**, MedChi, encourages all Marylanders —especially women—to focus on their cardiovascular health. Heart disease is a leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women; yet it is largely preventable. Heart-healthy living involves [understanding your risk](#), making healthy choices, and taking steps to reduce your chances of getting heart disease, including coronary heart disease, the most common type. By taking preventive measures, you can lower your risk of developing heart disease that could lead to *myocardial infarction* (MI) --- what we commonly refer to as a "heart attack". Myocardial infarction may be "silent" and go undetected, or it could be a catastrophic event leading to hemodynamic deterioration and sudden death.

In honor of American Heart Month, MedChi recognizes cardiologists who specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heart disease including coronary artery disease (CAD), heart attack and high blood pressure.

Cardiology is one of the many “clinical episode categories” that is treated by physicians enrolled in the [Episode Quality Improvement Program](#) (EQIP). This voluntary program, administered by [CRISP](#), engages practitioners who treat Medicare beneficiaries in care transformation and value-based payment through an episode-based approach. Medicare patients experiencing acute myocardial infarction, undergoing coronary angioplasty, or receiving pacemaker/defibrillator interventions can benefit from the dedication of physicians who actively participate in EQIP. With its emphasis on patient-centered care, EQIP practitioners provide personalized treatment plans, offer empathetic communication, and use a collaborative approach to decision-making, thereby empowering patients to navigate their cardiac journey with confidence and optimism.

Physicians enrolled in EQIP take a comprehensive approach to treating cardiovascular disease, complemented by the patient-centered care philosophy that is central to the EQIP approach and methodology. For more information, please reach out to: [EQIP@crisphealth.org](mailto:EQIP@crisphealth.org).

### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).