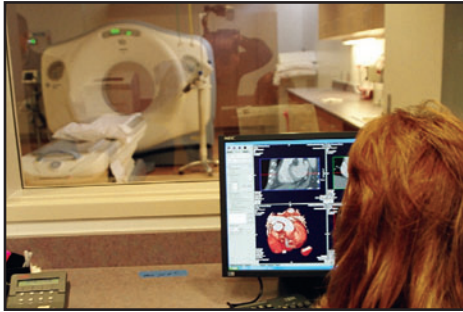




Banner Health

North Colorado Medical Center®

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keyword: CVI



Heart Care Services

North Colorado Medical Center's (NCMC) comprehensive, state-of-the art CardioVascular Institute offers everything from the most advanced diagnostic imaging in northern Colorado to leading edge open-heart surgery.

The CardioVascular Institute of North Colorado is setting the standard for heart care which is why the hospital ranks among the best in the nation for heart attack care – higher than any other hospital in northern Colorado by Total Benchmark Solution CMS Quality Management. North Colorado Medical Center offers a variety of non-surgical and surgical heart care programs housed in the same area to provide efficient flow for patients, staff and physicians.

The Cardiac Alert program at the CardioVascular Institute of North Colorado is designated as a 2006 Healthcare Hero Emergency Services Award recipient by the Northern Colorado Business Report. The program saves time in obtaining treatment for patients experiencing certain heart attack symptoms. Implemented in March 2006, the program involves the Weld County Ambulance Service, NCMC Trauma and Emergency Services, NCMC Catheterization lab physicians and staff and NCMC heart surgeons. Our hospital offers state-of-the-art technology in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease.

Diagnosis

Following are some of the most common methods of diagnosis used at North Colorado Medical Center.

- **BioZ Impedance Cardiography (ICG)** - A noninvasive test performed exclusively at the Heart Failure Clinic that provides your

physician information about your heart's ability to deliver blood to the rest of your body, the force your heart has to pump against with each heartbeat and the amount of fluid in your chest.

- **Cardiac Catheterization** - A doctor guides a thin plastic tube or catheter through an artery or vein in the arm or groin which allows the doctor to take a better look at the patient's heart and blood vessels.
- **Computed Tomography (CT or CAT Scan)** – The CT scanner creates 3-dimensional images of the heart and the coronary arteries in just five heartbeats.
- **Echocardiography** – During an echo, a technician uses a painless technique to send sound waves into the patient's chest. Common procedures include **Echocardiogram and Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)**
- **Electrocardiography (ECG)** - Also called EKG, an electrocardiogram measures the electrical activity in a heartbeat. Patients can be hooked to electrodes or wear a heart monitor (a small box that weighs less than one pound).
- **Nuclear Imaging** - Nuclear medicine is a unique type of medical imaging that uses very small and safe amounts of radioactive materials in conjunction with a specialized camera to diagnose and treat disease.

- **Treadmill Stress Testing** - During stress/ exercise testing a technician studies the heart while under maximum cardiac stress. Patients may walk on a treadmill or lie still under a camera.

Treatment Options

Following are some of the most common methods of treatments used at North Colorado Medical Center.

Catheterization Procedures

- Angiography
- Angioplasty (balloon pump)
- Atherectomy (rotational)
- Echo Procedures
- Electrophysiology Study
- ICD/Pacemaker Implantation
- Intracoronary Ultrasound
- Peripheral Vascular Intervention
- Stent Implantation
- Valvuoplasty

Surgery

Surgical procedures require the patient to stay in the hospital for a few days. A surgeon opens the patient's chest to repair damage to the heart tissue, valves, arteries or vessels. Some times the patient's heart is temporarily stopped from beating on its own. In that case a mechanical pump or heart-lung machine keeps the heart functioning while the doctor performs surgery. The medical staff at the CardioVascular Institute offers several cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgeries.

Intensive Care

The Cardiovascular Care Unit (CVCU) at the CardioVascular Institute is furnished with state-of-the-art equipment. The staff works together to attend to the special needs of patients and to keep family members informed. A specially trained team of registered nurses (RNs) and respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) collaborate to oversee the care and treatment of each patient.

Telemetry

The Telemetry Unit at North Colorado Medical Center helps ease a patient's transition from Intensive Care or surgery to recovery. During telemetry monitoring, patients typically wear a heart monitor (a small box that weighs less than one pound) that sends signals to the nurses' station where a technician observes the heart rate and rhythm. Nurses monitor vital signs, weight measurements and fluid levels to provide the best standard of care to patients.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

A healthy lifestyle helps maintain a healthy heart. That is why the CardioVascular Institute has cardiac rehabilitation program to help patients with heart conditions live healthier lives. A team of cardiac rehabilitation specialists tailor individual exercise and diet programs to meet each patients needs during three phases of rehabilitation.

Education

The staff at the CardioVascular Institute believes that education is key in prevention of heart disease as well as understanding heart conditions. For a complete list of classes please visit www.BannerHealth.com Keyword NCMC. Educational handouts are available in a printer-friendly .pdf format at www.BannerHealth.com, keyword: heart care fact sheets (keyword needs to be programmed into the Web site)

Support

- **Heart Failure Clinic** - The Heart Failure Clinic supports patients and their families with a variety of personalized care and therapy while providing access to research trials.
- **Cardiac Alert Program** - This enables the paramedics and hospital team to more rapidly decide whether **cardiac catheterization** will benefit the patient. **Implanted Cardioversion Defibrillators (ICD) Education Meetings** - A support group for patients with Implanted Cardioversion Defibrillators (ICD) and their loved ones.

Integrated Therapy

Integrative therapies treat the whole person, recognizing that every aspect of life contributes to healing. A goal of integrative therapy is to bridge the gap between traditional and alternative medicine. Integrated therapies offered at North Colorado Medical Center may include any one or a combination of:

- Music Therapy
- Humor Therapy/Healing Clowns
- Pet Therapy
- Spiritual Care
- Healing Environment
- Partners in Caring