



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Presence Regional EMS Launches Innovative Lifesaving App to Champaign County

October 20, 2017 (Urbana, IL) — Presence Regional EMS, in partnership with PulsePoint and the local 911 center, METCAD, are thrilled to announce the launch of PulsePoint Respond; an app to alert citizens trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when someone in a nearby public place suffers sudden cardiac arrest.

More than 350,000 Americans each year have an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) where the heart stops beating, and only 12 percent survive, according to the American Heart Association. The chance of survival decreases by ten percent with every passing minute without CPR.

The PulsePoint app connects directly to local emergency communication centers. When an incident requiring CPR and an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is reported, nearby citizens and off-duty responders who carry the app receive a notification of the emergency simultaneously with traditional first responders. PulsePoint reduces collapse-to-CPR times by increasing awareness of cardiac arrest events beyond a traditional “witnessed” area. The system also aims to reduce collapse-to-defibrillation times through augmented awareness of AED locations real-time mapping of nearby public access AED devices.

Since its introduction five years ago, the PulsePoint application has saved numerous lives in the United States when cardiac arrest happened in public places. The app is now in more than 2500 communities in 35 states with more than 1,000,000 users.

“We are proud to introduce PulsePoint to Champaign County,” said Presence Health Regional EMS Medical Director Kurt Bloomstrand M.D., “Sudden cardiac arrest strikes without warning, and our team is dedicated to improving survival rates in our community. This app is another piece in that puzzle and we believe that PulsePoint will be a powerful tool in our efforts to increase survival rates in our community. We look forward to also rolling this out in Vermilion County in the near future.”

Media is invited to attend press conference and launch ceremony at Presence Covenant Medical Center at 10am on October 23, 2017. The app is free to download and available in both the Apple AppStore and Google Play.

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About Presence Regional EMS System

Presence Regional EMS System is a progressive high performance EMS system with a focus on clinical excellence, education and advocacy. Our commitment to the highest standards of education affords the providers within our agencies, the confidence and technical competence for the clinical excellence required for a level of care our communities deserve. Presence Regional EMS continues to support the East Central Illinois community through innovative competency-based education programs, promoting capable, competent, clinicians. Our system offers a large variety of training and educational programs ranging from CPR to Paramedic curriculum.

About Presence Covenant Medical Center

Presence Covenant Medical Center is one of east central Illinois' most advanced medical facilities, offering a full scope of inpatient and outpatient care. As a regional hospital serving 13 counties, Presence Covenant offers the

latest technology and treatment options and focuses on providing patient and family centered care. The hospital is at the forefront of robotic-assisted, minimally-invasive surgery, as well as robotic-assisted cardiac navigation system to treat atrial fibrillation. Presence Covenant Medical Center is an accredited Chest Pain Center, a certified Primary Stroke Center, and accredited in the treatment of heart failure.

About Presence Health

Presence Health is the largest Catholic health system in Illinois, serving over 4 million people in 11 counties. With over 150 sites of compassionate care including 12 hospitals, over 17,000 associates and more than 4,000 medical professionals, Presence Health has annual revenue of \$2.6 billion.