American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
Latest Get With The Guidelines® Quality Research

Award-winning Get With The Guidelines-Stroke hospitals are more likely than Primary Stroke Center certified hospitals to provide all the recommended guideline-based care for patients.


Key Points:

- Hospital certification and recognition programs represent two independent but commonly used systems to distinguish hospitals. This study assessed acute ischemic stroke quality of care measure conformity by hospitals receiving Primary Stroke Center (PSC) certification and those receiving Get With The Guidelines (GWTG)-Stroke Performance Achievement Award (PAA) recognition.

- Measure conformity was highest for PAA recognized hospitals, irrespective of PSC certification status, intermediate for hospitals with PSC certification without PAA recognition, and lowest for hospitals without certification and recognition.

- While both PSC certification and GWTG-Stroke PAA recognition identified hospitals providing greater care measure conformity in acute ischemic stroke, PAA recognition was a more reliable identifier of hospitals with better performance.

These findings suggest to better support an accountable system of stroke care, PSC certifications programs should consider requiring hospitals to achieve a pre-specified level of achievement in stroke performance measures, adopting similar requirements to the GWTG-Stroke PAA recognition program, in order to remain certified.

“Certification and Get With The Guidelines-Stroke performance achievement measures complement one another, as both work for the same goal — improving quality care for all stroke patients.” AHA News Release

Stroke strikes 795,000 Americans a Year. We Help You Strike Back. Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke

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Check out the following additional online references:

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke hospitals more likely to provide guideline-recommended treatment – Science Codex

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke hospitals do follow guidelines – HealthDay News

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke hospitals do follow guidelines — News Medical

Hospitals in GWTG-Stroke program more likely to provide recommended stroke treatment – HealthCanal

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke hospitals do follow guidelines – Doctors Lounge

Lead Author:
Dr. Gregg C. Fonarow is the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science at UCLA. He serves as Director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, Co-Director of UCLA’s Preventative Cardiology Program, and Clinical Co-Chief of Cardiology, UCLA Division of Cardiology. He attained the rank of Professor of Medicine, Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA in 2003. His research interests center on acute and chronic heart failure, preventative cardiology, quality of care, outcomes, and implementing treatment systems to improve clinical outcome. Dr. Fonarow has published over 400 research studies and clinical trials in heart failure, disease management, preventative cardiology, and outcomes research. New therapies and management strategies for advanced heart failure and research into the pathophysiology of this disease are conducted at UCLA under his direction. He has also developed and successfully implemented a comprehensive atherosclerosis treatment program at the UCLA Medical Center (Cardiovascular Hospitalization Atherosclerosis Management Program: CHAMP), which served as the model for the American Heart Association’s Get with the Guidelines program. Dr. Fonarow is the immediate past chair of the steering committee for the AHA’s Get With The Guidelines Program and chaired OPTIMIZE-HF. He is co-chair of IMPROVE-HF, a national cardiology practice based registry and performance improvement program to improve use of evidence based medication and device therapy for heart failure. He is also chair of the steering committee for the ACC ACTION-GWTG Registry. He is on the steering committee and serves as an investigator for a number of ongoing randomized clinical trials in heart failure. He serves as a reviewer and serves on the editorial boards for a number of leading cardiovascular journals. Dr. Fonarow received the outstanding UCLA Cardiology Faculty Teaching Award in 1997 and was honored by the American College of Cardiology with the W. Proctor Harvey Young Teacher Award in 1998. He received an AHA Award of Meritorious Achievement in 2004. In 2009, he received the Raymond D. Bahr Award of Excellence and the Turning Guidelines into Lifelines Award from the AHA. He was awarded the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science in 2003.