**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE**

**CONTACT:
Organization/Practice PR contact name/phone, email**

**[Name of your organization/practice]** **is nationally recognized for its commitment to providing high-quality stroke care**

*The American Heart Association presents Get With The Guidelines - Stroke [SELECT APPROPRIATE LEVEL: GoldPlus/Gold/SilverPlus/Silver/Bronze/Participating] award for proven dedication to ensuring* *all stroke patients have access to best practices and life-saving care*

**CITY, STATE**— (Name of organization/practice) has received the American Heart Association’s *[SELECT APPROPRIATE LEVEL: GoldPlus/Gold/SilverPlus/Silver/Bronze/Participating]* Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and accelerating recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence-based guidelines. [Get With The Guidelines - Stroke](https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/get-with-the-guidelines/get-with-the-guidelines-stroke) is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death.

“(HOSPITAL NAME) is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines,” (HOSPITAL SPOKESPERSON, TITLE). “Get With The Guidelines makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis, which studies show can help patients recover better. The end goal is to ensure more people in [CITY] can experience longer, healthier lives.”

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

“We are incredibly pleased to recognize (HOSPITAL NAME) for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke,” said Steven Messe, M.D., chairperson of the Stroke System of Care Advisory Group. “Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families and communities.”

**NOTE: INSERT HIGHLIGHTED SECTION BELOW IF HOSPITAL RECEIVED TARGET: STROKE AWARD**

(**HOSPITAL NAME**) also received the American Heart Association’s (select correct award: Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll/Target: StrokeSM Elite/Target: StrokeSM Elite Plus)award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster alteplase.

**NOTE: INSERT HIGHLIGHTED SECTION BELOW IF HOSPITAL RECEIVED TARGET: STROKE HONOR ROLL ADVANCED THERAPY AWARD**

In addition, (**HOSPITAL NAME**) received the American Heart Association’s Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll Advanced Therapy award by meeting specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment to remove the clot causing the stroke.

**NOTE: INSERT HIGHLIGHTED SECTION BELOW IF HOSPITAL RECEIVED TARGET: TYPE 2 DIABETES HONOR ROLL™ AWARD**

(**HOSPITAL NAME**) also received the American Heart Association’s (select correct award: Target: Type 2 Honor Roll) award. Target: Type 2 Diabetes aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

**(NOTE: Use the next paragraph if appropriate for your facility)**

**HOSPITAL NAME)** also met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center or as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department.

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***About [Hospital Name]:***

**[Insert Hospital boiler plate]**

***About Get With The Guidelines®***

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 12 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit [heart.org](http://www.heart.org)**.**

***ADDITIONAL RESOURCES***

**Social Media Posts**

**Twitter**

We’re proud to be nationally recognized by @American\_Stroke for our commitment to providing high-quality stroke care with a <GWTG award received>! #GetWithTheGuidelines

Be confident in consistent care. (Hospital name) has earned a <GWTG award received>. #GetWithTheGuidelines

(Hospital name) is dedicated to ensuring all stroke patients have access to best practices and life-saving care, that’s how we earned the <GWTG award received>. #GetWithTheGuidelines

**Facebook**

We are proud to be nationally recognized by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association for our commitment to providing research-based, high-quality stroke care with a Get With The Guidelines achievement award. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/1qoUMbJ>

**[Hospital Name]** has earned a Get With The Guidelines achievement award, which demonstrates adherence to the latest research-based clinical guidelines to support better outcomes for patients. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/1qoUMbJ>

Be confident in consistent care. (Hospital name)’s dedication to ensuring all stroke patients have access to best practices and life-saving care has earned us a <GWTG award received>. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/1qoUMbJ>