**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: (NAME/TITLE)**

**(PHONE NUMBER)**

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**(HOSPITAL NAME) receives
Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award**

*American Heart Association Award recognizes* ***(HOSPITAL NAME’s****) commitment to quality stroke care*

**CITY, DATE, 2018** ― **(HOSPITAL NAME)** has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital’s commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

 (**HOSPITAL NAME**) earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

 “(**HOSPITAL NAME**) is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our stroke patients by implementing the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines-Stroke initiative,” said (**HOSPITAL SPOKESPERSON, TITLE**). “The tools and resources provided help us track and measure our success in meeting evidenced-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes.”

**NOTE: INSERT IF HOSPITAL RECEIVED TARGET: STROKE AWARD**

 (**HOSPITAL NAME**) additionally received the 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 quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or [tPA](http://www.strokeassociation.org/STROKEORG/AboutStroke/Treatment/Stroke-Treatments_UCM_310892_Article.jsp), the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat [ischemic stroke](http://www.strokeassociation.org/STROKEORG/AboutStroke/TypesofStroke/Types-of-Stroke_UCM_308531_SubHomePage.jsp).

 “We are pleased to recognize (**HOSPITAL NAME**) for their commitment to stroke care,” said Eric E. Smith, M.D., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee and an associate professor of neurology at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. “Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates.”

 According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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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 tools and resources to increase adherence to 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 6 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit [heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

***ADDITIONAL RESOURCES***

**Social Media Posts**

**Twitter**

We’re proud to achieve recognition by @American\_Heart with a <GWTG award received>! #GetWithTheGuidelines

Patient care is our No. 1 priority. **[Hospital Name]** has received a <GWTG award received>. #GetWithTheGuidelines

**Facebook**

We are proud to achieve recognition by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association for following the latest research-based standards for <Type of 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 clinical guidelines to support better outcomes for stroke patients. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/1qoUMbJ>