
For Immediate Release

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Mercy Hospital Comprehensive Stroke Center Receives AHA Gold Plus Quality Award

Hospital Achieves Highest Level Recognition for 5th Year in a Row

July 7, 2017, Buffalo, NY – For the fifth consecutive year, the Mercy Hospital Comprehensive Stroke Center has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s **Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award and Target: Honor Roll Elite Plus**—the AHA’s highest level of hospital recognition—for its commitment to quality stroke treatment based on nationally recognized, research-based guidelines for care.

To receive the **Stroke Gold Plus Awards**, the hospital achieved 85 percent or higher adherence to all AHA quality & achievement indicators for 24 months (two consecutive 12-month intervals), and achieved 75 percent or higher compliance with five of eight Get With the Guidelines- Stroke Quality measures.

To achieve the association’s **Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus**, 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](#), the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat [ischemic stroke](#). If given intravenously in the first three hours after the start of stroke symptoms, tPA has been shown to significantly reduce the effects of stroke and lessen the chance of permanent disability. Mercy Hospital 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.

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“With a stroke, every minute counts, and the Gold Plus Quality Award demonstrates Mercy Hospital’s commitment to being one of the top hospitals in the country for providing excellent, proven stroke care,” said C.J. Urlaub, Mercy Hospital President & CEO. “This recognition from the **Get With The Guidelines** program further reinforces our team’s hard work and ongoing efforts to deliver advanced stroke treatments to patients quickly and safely.”

In 2013, Mercy Hospital became the first hospital in Western New York and among the first in New York State to be named a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission, offering 24/7 emergency care with specially trained physicians and medical personnel, advanced imaging capabilities and specially-equipped operating facilities to diagnose and treat the most complex stroke cases. The hospital achieved reaccreditation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission in November 2015, following a rigorous onsite survey process.

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, someone dies of a stroke every four minutes, and nearly 800,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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About Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital is home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, providing a full range of cardiac care services including heart surgery and the latest minimally invasive cardiac procedures, and serves as a Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center with physician experts and capabilities to diagnose and treat the most complex stroke cases. Mercy was named one of America’s Top 50 Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery in 2015 and America’s Top 100 Hospitals for Orthopedic Surgery in 2016 by HealthGrades®. The hospital is also home to the state-of-the-art Mercy Emergency Center featuring 32 private treatment rooms and a rooftop heliport, as well as the Family BirthPlace providing a full spectrum of maternity/child services, a neonatal intensive care unit and a specialized pediatric care unit. Mercy also offers a wide array of outpatient, primary care and rehabilitation services at convenient locations throughout the area, including 24/7 emergency care available at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center in Orchard Park. Founded over 100 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital is committed to medical excellence with an ongoing mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need.

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.