

Immediate Release

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Christiana Hospital Earns Stroke Gold Plus with Honor Roll Elite Plus

(NEWARK, Del. – June 3, 2016) Christiana Care Health System’s Christiana Hospital has earned the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award with Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll Elite Plus.

Christiana Care joins an elite group of hospitals recognized for commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted standards and research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

“These awards recognize that Christiana Care provides excellent stroke care in three important areas: the Emergency Department, during the hospital stay, and on discharge from the hospital,” said Jonathan Raser-Schramm MD, PhD, Stroke Medical Director. “Our Gold Plus award recognizes our excellence in following national guidelines in stroke assessment and treatment after admission to the hospital, and in providing patients the best chances at recovery and preventing further strokes on discharge from the hospital.”

Dr. Raser-Schramm noted that Christiana Care exceeds the most stringent national standards in the ability to rapidly treat stroke symptoms. On average, patients are treated within 35 minute of arriving, below the national target of 45 minutes.

“Getting tPA to our patients faster is a significant factor in better outcomes,” said Kert Anzilotti, M.D., MBA, Neurosciences Service Line physician leader.

Hospitals must achieve 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Stroke achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month periods and achieve 75 percent or higher compliance with five of eight Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality measures to receive the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

To qualify for the 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. 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.

Christiana Care ranks in the top 10 nationwide in the number of stroke cases it handles, treating more than 1,200 cases annually. Christiana Hospital is the only institution between Philadelphia and Baltimore to earn Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification for its ability to treat complex cases 24/7.

“The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize Christiana Care for its commitment to stroke care,” said Paul Heidenreich, M.D., M.S., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee and professor of medicine at Stanford University. “Research has shown there are benefits to patients who are treated at hospitals that have adopted the Get With The Guidelines program.”

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country’s largest health care systems, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 10th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. The health system includes The Medical Group of Christiana Care, a network of primary care physicians, medical and surgical specialists as well as home health care, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services and patient/family advisors for core health care services. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care has an extensive range of outpatient services, and through Christiana Care Quality Partners, Christiana Care works closely with its medical staff to achieve better health, better access to care and lower cost. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers this highest level of care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds. For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/whoweare.

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