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PRIMARY STROKE CENTER EARNS TOP AWARD FOR CARE

The Saint Peter's University Hospital Primary Stroke Center has been awarded the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® Silver Plus Performance Achievement Award in recognition of its care for patients. This award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success to a higher standard of stroke care according to national standards and recommendations set by the American Heart Association (AHA) and American Stroke Association (ASA).

"The Silver Plus award is a great testimony to the quality of care provided to all stroke patients at Saint Peter's," says Jeffrey Greenberg, MD, board certified neurologist and stroke program director at Saint Peter's University Hospital, a member of the Saint Peter's Healthcare System. "Given the work ethic and dedication of all those involved in the stroke program, I am optimistic we will continue to reach new heights each year."

Saint Peter's has a designated stroke unit where patients are monitored by a staff of nurses, nurses aides and patient care technicians specially trained to treat strokes. Saint Peter's offers neurological and neurosurgical services as well as inpatient rehabilitation services such as physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and has transfer agreements for long-term rehabilitation and certain complex surgeries with three nearby hospitals: Overlook Medical Center in Summit, part of the Atlantic Health System, JFK Medical Center in Edison and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Hospitals that earn the Silver Plus Award have met an aggressive goal of treating stroke patients with 85 percent or higher compliance of standard levels of care outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for 12 consecutive months. In addition, Saint Peter's also met another

requirement of the award program; the hospital's stroke center was at least 75 percent compliant with six of the 10 Get With The Guidelines Stroke Quality Measures during that same 12-month period of time.

Saint Peter's center earned primary stroke designation in accordance with standards set by the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services. Among the criteria the center met is the ability to perform brain computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans that can be studied and interpreted by a physician with experience. A specialized stroke team that includes emergency physicians, neurologists and nurses with special training in acute stroke

management must be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Saint Peter's team is charged with evaluating patients so that decisions about treatment can be made quickly. This prompt care helps to prevent damage to the brain and decrease the risk of future strokes.



Dr. Jeffrey Greenberg

There are two types of strokes, also called brain attacks. An ischemic stroke, which accounts for about 80 percent of brain attacks, is caused by a clot that blocks a blood vessel in the brain. A hemorrhagic stroke happens when a blood vessel in the brain bursts. When either happens, cells die immediately, damaging the brain. Both require immediate attention, says Dr. Greenberg.

Time is of essence when you or someone you love suffers a stroke. The sooner you get to the hospital after recognizing the warning signs, the better. Call 911 immediately.

If you observe or experience any stroke symptoms call 911 immediately.

Warning signs

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing out of one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

