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**West Florida Healthcare Receives
Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award
with Target: Stroke Honor Roll**

*American Heart Association Award recognizes
West Florida Healthcare's commitment to quality stroke care*

June 9, 2016 (Pensacola, FL) West Florida Healthcare has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to providing the most appropriate stroke treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

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, 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

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reduce the effects of stroke and lessen the chance of permanent disability. West Florida Healthcare 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 quality measures are designed to help hospital teams follow the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

“A stroke patient loses 1.9 million neurons each minute stroke treatment is delayed. This recognition further demonstrates our commitment to delivering advanced stroke treatments to patients quickly and safely,” said **Brian Baumgardner**, West Florida Healthcare’s President and CEO. “West Florida Healthcare continues to strive for excellence in the acute treatment of stroke patients.

The recognition from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines-Stroke further reinforces our team’s hard work.”

West Florida Healthcare has also met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department.

“The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize West Florida Healthcare 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.”



The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize this hospital for achieving 85% or higher compliance with all Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Achievement Measures and 75% or higher compliance with five or more Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Measures for two or more consecutive years and achieving Time to Intravenous Thrombolytic Therapy ≤ 60 minutes in 50% or more of applicable acute ischemic stroke patients to improve quality of patient care and outcomes.

Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping hospital care teams ensure the care provided to patients is aligned with the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal to save lives and improve recovery time, Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke has impacted more than 3 million patients since 2003.

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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 West Florida Healthcare

The first hospital in the area to offer all private rooms, West Florida Healthcare proudly provides market-leading quality outcomes performance. Named for the second year in a row as one of the “100 Top Hospitals” in the nation by Truven Health Analytics, the facility has also been recognized as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures for five years in a row by The Joint Commission and earned an “A” rating in patient safety from The Leapfrog Group. The area’s first Accredited Chest Pain Center and Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, West Florida Hospital is also the first hospital in the state of Florida to have earned Atrial Fibrillation with Electrophysiology Services Accreditation. The hospital is also an Advanced Primary Stroke Center and offers specialized Emergency Department services tailored specifically to the needs of seniors as well as a Kids’ ER dedicated to serving the emergency medical needs of children. The West Florida Healthcare campus includes the all private room acute care hospital, the area’s only comprehensive, CARF-accredited physical rehabilitation hospital, and a mental health facility. Affiliated with HCA, the nation’s leading provider of healthcare, West Florida Healthcare meets the community’s healthcare needs in major services such as cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, orthopedics, robotic-assisted surgery, critical care, neurology/neurosurgery, emergency care, urology, behavioral health,

gastroenterology, obstetrics, pulmonary, and rehabilitative medicine. For more information, visit www.westfloridahospital.com or call (850) 494-3212.

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.