



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 14, 2016

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## **Sacred Heart Hospital Receives the American Stroke Association's Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award**

PENSACOLA, Fla. – For the eighth year in a row, the American Stroke Association awarded Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola the Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award for its commitment and success in implementing excellent care for stroke patients.

When a stroke strikes, every second counts. Sacred Heart's Regional Stroke Center is equipped to rapidly diagnose and treat stroke patients admitted to the hospital's emergency department. The Stroke Center provides brain imaging scans, has neurologists available to conduct patient evaluations and uses clot-busting medications when appropriate. The Stroke Center offers the highest level of care; it's the only local primary stroke center that has a board-certified vascular neurologist and neurointensivist as part of its team, Dr. Terry Neill.

"Receiving this award for the eighth year validates the Stroke Center's reputation as the premier program in the area," Neill said. "It also underscores Sacred Heart Hospital's commitment to utilizing state-of-the-art technologies and providing a comprehensive treatment approach to patient care."

To receive this prestigious award, Sacred Heart achieved 85 percent or higher adherence to quality standards for two or more consecutive 12-month intervals. Sacred Heart Regional Stroke Center's targeted, quality program of care is designed to reduce the number of deaths related to stroke, minimize disability, create awareness of prevention, and help reduce the cost of healthcare.

According to the American Stroke Association, approximately 795,000 people suffer a stroke each year. That's about 1 of every 18 deaths in the United States. On average, every four minutes someone dies of a stroke. About 40 percent of stroke deaths occur in males, and 60 percent in females.

For more information on Sacred Heart's Regional Stroke Center, please call (850) 416-1600 or visit <http://www.sacred-heart.org/strokecenter/>.

**Save your Brain. Save your world.** If you or a loved one has symptoms of a stroke, call 9-1-1 immediately and ask to be taken to the nearest certified primary stroke center.

#### **Warning Signs of Stroke**

- 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 in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

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#### ***About Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola***

Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola (SHHP) is a 566-bed acute care hospital that has been rated by area consumers as the most preferred hospital in the Pensacola area and the best for quality and reputation. For more than 100 years, its mission has been to provide high-quality compassionate healthcare to all persons in need, with special attention to those who are poor or vulnerable. SHHP serves as a regional medical center with expertise in providing specialized care for treatment of heart disease, cancer, stroke, bone and joint diseases, and traumatic illnesses and injuries, as well as care to women with high-risk pregnancies. More women choose to have their babies at Sacred Heart than any other hospital in Northwest Florida. Sacred Heart's Pensacola campus also is home to The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, the region's only hospital dedicated to care of infants and children with acute injuries or illnesses. The Pensacola facilities are the hub of Sacred Heart Health System and its network of hospitals, outpatient medical parks, long-term care facility and a large group of 150 primary care physicians and specialists. Sacred Heart Hospital was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1915 in a beautiful building that still stands on 12th Avenue in Pensacola. In 1965, the hospital was relocated to its present site on 9th Avenue. Sacred Heart Health System is a member of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system. For more information, visit [www.sacred-heart.org](http://www.sacred-heart.org).

#### ***About Ascension***

Ascension ([www.ascension.org](http://www.ascension.org)) is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2015, Ascension provided nearly \$2 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Approximately 160,000 associates and 36,000 aligned providers serve in 2,500 sites of care – including 141 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to healthcare delivery, Ascension subsidiaries provide a variety of services and solutions including physician practice management, venture capital investing, investment management,

biomedical engineering, clinical care management, information services, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization.

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