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## **West Jefferson Medical Center Awarded Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers**

**Marrero, Louisiana (August 1, 2018)** West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC) announced today that it has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for [Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers](#). The Gold Seal of Approval® and the Heart-Check mark represent symbols of quality from their respective organizations.

With this certification, WJMC joins an elite group of health care organizations focused on highly-specialized stroke care. To be eligible, hospitals must demonstrate compliance with stroke-related standards as a Primary Stroke Center and meet additional requirements, including those related to advanced imaging capabilities, 24/7 availability of specialized treatments, and providing staff with the unique education and competencies to care for complex stroke patients.

WJMC underwent a rigorous onsite review in June of 2018 when Joint Commission experts evaluated compliance with stroke-related standards and requirements.

"By achieving this advanced certification, WJMC has thoroughly demonstrated the greatest level of commitment to the care of its patients with a complex stroke condition," says Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president and CEO, The Joint Commission. "Certification is a voluntary process and The Joint Commission commends WJMC for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate the standard of its care for the community it serves."

"The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association congratulates WJMC on achieving Comprehensive Stroke Center certification," said Nancy Brown, chief executive officer, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. "Meeting the standards for Comprehensive Stroke Center certification represents a commitment to deliver high quality care to all patients affected by stroke."

“WJMC is proud to have earned this advanced certification from The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association,” said Nancy R. Cassagne, President and CEO, West Jefferson Medical Center. “Our Stroke Program has always aimed to be at the forefront of advancements in stroke care with the goal of providing patients with the most innovative treatments available. This certification not only acknowledges the tremendous work our Stroke Program does, but also gives us the framework to continue delivering the best care possible to our community.”

Established in 2012, Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers is awarded for a two-year period to Joint Commission-accredited acute care hospitals. The certification was derived from the Brain Attack Coalition’s [“Recommendations for Comprehensive Stroke Centers”](#) (*Stroke*, 2005), [“Metrics for Measuring Quality of Care in Comprehensive Stroke Centers”](#) (*Stroke*, 2011) and recommendations from a multidisciplinary advisory panel of experts in complex stroke care. Stroke is the number five cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States, according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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#### **The Joint Commission**

Founded in 1951, [The Joint Commission](#) seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

#### **The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association**

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association are devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – America’s No. 1 and No. 5 killers. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based American Heart Association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. The American Stroke Association is a division of the American Heart Association. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org) or call any of our offices around the country. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The familiar Heart-Check mark now helps consumers evaluate their choices in hospital care. Each mark given to a hospital is earned by meeting specific standards for the care of patients with heart disease and/or stroke. The Heart-Check mark can only be displayed by hospitals that have achieved and defined requirements set by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. For more information on the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Hospital Accreditation Program visit [www.heart.org/myhospital](http://www.heart.org/myhospital).

#### **About West Jefferson Medical Center’s Advanced Primary Stroke Center**

West Jefferson Medical Center was the first Primary Stroke Center in Louisiana, earning national certification from The Joint Commission in 2006. Since then, the team has continued to meet and exceed rigorous national standards for stroke care in order to provide patients with the greatest chance for recovery. The WJMC Stroke Program is committed to providing each patient with 24/7 access to comprehensive, interdisciplinary stroke care from the time they arrive by EMS to when they are recovering in rehab.

#### **About West Jefferson Medical Center**

Founded in 1956, (WJMC) is a 435-bed community hospital located in Marrero, La. As a full-service medical center, WJMC offers comprehensive programs for preventive, emergency, acute and rehabilitative care with a medical staff of more than 400 physicians, and a complement of 1,700 employees and many volunteers. The medical center enjoys national awards for clinical excellence across many of its subspecialties. WJMC is a proud member of LCMC Health, a Louisiana-based, not-for-profit hospital system serving the healthcare needs of the Gulf Coast region. LCMC Health currently manages award-winning community hospitals including Children’s Hospital, Touro Infirmary, New Orleans East Hospital, University Medical Center New Orleans and West Jefferson Medical Center.