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West Jefferson Medical Center Receives Stroke Quality Achievement Awards from The American Heart/American Stroke Association

Marrero, Louisiana (June 27, 2018) — West Jefferson Medical Center has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

West Jefferson Medical Center 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 measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

"The West Jefferson Medical Center Stroke Program focuses on providing quality, evidence-based care to our patients. Our partnership with the American Heart Association through Get With the Guidelines – Stroke initiative helps us maintain that focus," said Alyana Samai, Stroke Program Coordinator. "It is an honor for the program to be recognized for this achievement for the fourth year in a row."

West Jefferson Medical Center additionally received the association's Target: StrokeSM Elite Plus award. To qualify for this recognition, 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](#).

“We are pleased to recognize West Jefferson Medical Center for their commitment to stroke care,” said Eric E. Smith, M.D., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee and an associate professor of neurology at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. “Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates.”

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 and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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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, New Orleans East Hospital, University Medical Center New Orleans and West Jefferson Medical Center.

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.