

Taslin Alfonzo
Media Relations Specialist
taslin.alfonzo@wjmc.org

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**West Jefferson Receives
Get With The Guidelines Target: Stroke Honor Roll-Elite Award**
Award demonstrates West Jefferson's commitment to quality care for stroke patients

(MARRERO, LA - APRIL 2015) — **West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC)** has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®–Target: Stroke Honor Roll-Elite Quality Achievement Award at the association's International Stroke Conference 2015. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success ensuring that stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

West Jefferson Medical Center is one of 559 hospitals to be recognized on the Target: Stroke Honor Roll, among the nearly 1,000 hospitals given quality achievement awards at the conference.

"Being recognized on the Stroke Honor Roll is a testament to the excellent Stroke Center at West Jefferson Medical Center and the care our doctors and staff are providing patients each and every day," said Nancy R. Cassagne, CEO of WJMC. "The Elite Quality Achievement Award is the result of their hard work and the dedication of many health professionals across our organization."

To receive the Target: Stroke Honor Roll-Elite award, 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 reduce the effects of stroke and lessen the chance of permanent disability. Over twelve months, at least 75 percent of the hospital's ischemic stroke patients have received tPA within 60 minutes of arriving at the hospital (known as door-to-needle time).

These quality measures are designed to help hospital teams provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and this award demonstrates our commitment to ensuring patients receive care based on nationally-respected clinical guidelines," said Sarabpreet Khara, Executive Director of the Neuroscience Service Line for West Jefferson Medical Center. "West Jefferson is dedicated to improving the quality of stroke care and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines Stroke helps us achieve that goal."

West Jefferson 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.

“We are pleased to recognize **West Jefferson** for their commitment to stroke care,” said Deepak L. Bhatt, M.D., M.P.H., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee and Executive Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Programs at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. “Studies have shown that hospitals that consistently follow Get With The Guidelines quality improvement measures can reduce length of stay and 30-day readmission rates and reduce disparities in care.”

For providers, Get With The Guidelines–Stroke offers quality improvement measures, discharge protocols, standing orders and other measurement tools. Providing hospitals with resources and information that make it easier to follow treatment guidelines can help save lives and ultimately reduce overall healthcare costs by lowering readmission rates for stroke patients.

For patients, Get With The Guidelines–Stroke uses the “teachable moment,” the time soon after a patient has had a stroke, when they learn how to manage their risk factors while still in the hospital and recognize the [F.A.S.T.](#) warning signs of a stroke.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the number five cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. 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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About West Jefferson Medical Center

Founded in 1956, West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC) is a community hospital located in Marrero, LA, just 10 minutes from downtown New Orleans. 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 1700 employees and many volunteers. WJMC serves a community of more than 180,000 people. Located near vast industrial quarters, the medical center also serves business and industry across the Gulf South. Clinical excellence divisions include: neurosciences, cardiovascular services, and an academic community cancer center. To meet the community needs, West Jefferson Medical Center Physician Services includes both primary care and specialty clinics located across the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. The medical center enjoys awards for clinical excellence across many of its subspecialties.

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 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 5 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit heart.org/quality or heart.org/QualityMap