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February 2011

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West Jefferson Medical Center is Recognized for Implementing Quality Heart Failure Care

(MARRERO, February 2011) — **West Jefferson Medical Center** (WJMC) has received the Get With The Guidelines®–Heart Failure Silver Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. The recognition signifies that West Jeff has reached an aggressive goal of treating heart failure patients with 85 percent compliance for one year to core standard levels of care as outlined by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology secondary prevention guidelines for heart failure patients.

Get With The Guidelines is a quality improvement initiative that provides hospital staff with tools that follow proven evidence-based guidelines and procedures in caring for heart failure patients to prevent future hospitalizations. According to Get With The Guidelines–Heart Failure treatment guidelines, heart failure patients are started on aggressive risk-reduction therapies such as cholesterol-lowering drugs, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, aspirin, diuretics and anticoagulants in the hospital. They also receive smoking cessation counseling for education on disease management as well as referrals for cardiac rehabilitation before being discharged.

“The full implementation of national heart failure guideline recommended care is a critical step in preventing recurrent hospitalizations and prolonging the lives of heart failure patients,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., chair of the Get With The Guidelines National Steering Committee and director of the TeleStroke and Acute Stroke Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Mass. “The goal of the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines program is to help hospitals like West Jeff implement appropriate evidence-based care and protocols that will reduce disability and the number of deaths in these patients.”

“West Jeff is dedicated to making our care for heart failure patients among the best in the country. We will continue in our efforts and build off the success of this award by continued implementation of the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines–Heart Failure program that allowed us to accomplish this goal,” said Monica Bologna, WJMC’s Cardiac Line Service Administrator.

Get With The Guidelines–Heart Failure helps WJMC’s staff develop and implement acute and secondary prevention guideline processes. The program includes quality-improvement measures such as care maps, discharge protocols, standing orders and measurement tools. This quick and efficient use of guideline tools will enable West Jeff to improve the quality of care it provides heart failure patients, save lives and ultimately, reduce healthcare costs by lowering the recurrence of readmissions.

According to the American Heart Association, about 5.7 million people suffer from heart failure. Statistics also show that, each year, 670,000 new cases are diagnosed and more than 277,000 people will die of heart failure.

PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENT



American Heart Association® | American Stroke Association®

Learn and Live™

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER

On this date, February 2, 2011 as a
Get With The Guidelines – Heart Failure
Silver Performance Achievement Award Hospital
Recognition valid from February 2011 to February 2012

Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer,
American Heart Association

Lee H. Schwamm, MD, FAHA
Chairperson: Get With The Guidelines®
Steering Committee

Clyde W. Yancy, MD, FAHA
2009-2010 President,
American Heart Association

The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize this hospital for achieving at least one year of 85% or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines® Heart Failure Performance Achievement indicators to improve quality of patient care and outcomes.

