



PRESS RELEASE

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Holy Redeemer receives award from American Stroke Association

(MEADOWBROOK, PA) – Holy Redeemer Hospital and Medical Center received the American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines (SM) – Stroke (GWTG–Stroke) Silver Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes Holy Redeemer’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

“With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the GWTG – Stroke Silver Performance Achievement Award addresses the important element of time,” says Karen Renson, Holy Redeemer’s director of clinical best practices. “We have developed a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department. This includes always being equipped to provide brain imaging scans, having neurologists available to conduct patient evaluations and using clot-busting medications when appropriate.”

To receive the GWTG-Stroke Silver Performance Achievement Award, Holy Redeemer consistently complied with the requirements in the GWTG–Stroke program for at least one year. These include aggressive use of medications like antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol-reducing drugs, smoking cessation and tPA.

tPA or recombinant tissue plasminogen activator is a clot-busting medication that can decrease the severity of a ‘brain attack’ and often restores large portions of the damaged area. tPA is administered only if the patient seeks medical attention within three hours of symptom onset.

“Holy Redeemer was one of the area’s first hospitals to embrace the use of the clot-busting medication, tPA as a treatment for stroke,” says Dr. Howard Natter, Holy Redeemer Stroke Center’s medical director. “It has been found that patients who received tPA have a better quality of life three months after having a stroke. This is why it’s so

important to know how to recognize and respond to the signs of stroke by calling 9-1-1 for immediate help.”

The warning signs of stroke include:

- 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.

Holy Redeemer will be providing the public with more information about stroke and offering stroke assessments, blood pressure and pulse checks in its FREE Stroke Fair on Thursday, May 29 from 1 to 3 pm at Boscov’s Auditorium at the Neshaminy Mall in Bensalem. To register for the event, please call 1-800-818-4747.

“Holy Redeemer continues to focus on improving the quality of stroke care,” says Renson. “The number of acute ischemic stroke patients eligible for treatment is expected to grow over the next decade due to increasing stroke incidence and a large aging population.”

In fact, according to the American Stroke Association, approximately 700,000 people suffer a stroke each year; 500,000 are first attacks and 200,000 are recurrent. Of stroke survivors, 21 percent of men and 24 percent of women die within a year, and for those aged 65 and older, the percentage is even higher.

Holy Redeemer Hospital and Medical Center’s certified Primary Stroke Center utilizes an expedited care delivery process and a Joint Commission-accredited emergency stroke action plan to help patients improve outcomes after suffering a stroke. After the critical initial treatment, patients receive a neurological consultation and specialized care, including a rehabilitative care plan that offers dietary consultations and speech therapy; occupational and physical therapy; techniques to prevent stroke complications; reducing risk factors; and follow-up care recommendations. For additional information about Holy Redeemer’s primary stroke center, call 1-800-818-4747.



Pictured: Holy Redeemer's Stroke Steering Committee receives the American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines – Stroke Silver Performance Achievement Award from Michele Bolles, the American Heart Association's vice president of quality improvement initiatives.

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