



ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

News Release

St. Joseph's Hospital Awarded Certification for Stroke Center

TAMPA, Fla. (December 20, 2007) – St. Joseph's Hospital has been awarded the Gold Seal of Approval™ from the Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. St. Joseph's Hospital achieved this 2-year certification after the Joint Commission conducted an unannounced on-site review.

"We are proud to receive this distinction from the Joint Commission as St. Joseph's continues to educate the community about stroke and its risk factors," said Pam D'Amore, administrative director, St. Joseph's Hospital Heart Institute. "We are honored to receive national recognition for our resources and treatments, which can provide patients with a better chance of recovery with minimal side effects to the brain and body."

The Gold Seal honor certifies that St. Joseph's Hospital is nationally recognized to deliver the highest quality care to stroke patients. Initially certified for its stroke care in 2005, this year's honor will mark St. Joseph's Hospital's second consecutive accreditation.

The re-certification recognizes that St. Joseph's Hospital continues to demonstrate that its stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients.

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification is based on the recommendations for primary stroke centers published by the Brain Attack Coalition and the American Stroke Association's statements/guidelines for stroke care. The program, which started in 2003, is the nation's first for accreditation of stroke centers.

According to the American Stroke Association, stroke is the nation's third leading cause of death. Each year about 700,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke. The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission evaluates and accredits nearly 15,000 health care organizations, including 8,000 hospitals.

"On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds and someone dies of a stroke every 3.1 minutes," said Charles Sand, M.D., Past President of Florida American Heart Association and Emergency Physician at SJH. "St. Joseph's Hospital has highly specialized staff and cutting edge medical technology to optimally treat those who have suffered stroke and give them the best chance possible for survival and minimal, if any, long term disability."

Founded as a mission by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, St. Joseph's Hospital has served the health care needs of Tampa since 1934. SJH strives to be a regional leader in medical excellence by improving the health of our community through accessible, compassionate and family-focused health care services. It is the largest not-for-profit health care provider in Hillsborough County, and is known for its advanced medical technology and surgery. Its Centers of Excellence include the Cancer Institute and Heart Institute. SJH has an outstanding medical staff representing more than 70 medical specialties. *St. Joseph's Hospital is located at 3001 West Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Tampa. For more information about St. Joseph's Hospital, go to www.stjosephstampa.com.*