



ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

News Release

Contact: Jacqueline Farruggio
Phone: (813) 554-8216
Pager: (813) 227-3430

Hospital Receives Comprehensive Stroke Center Honors

TAMPA, Fla. (Feb. 20, 2008) – St. Joseph's Hospital has been named a comprehensive stroke center by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

The hospital is one of just eight stroke centers in Florida to receive this designation, which certifies that St. Joseph's Hospital is recognized to deliver the highest quality care to stroke patients.

"This distinction, along with our recent re-certification from the Joint Commission, recognizes that St. Joseph's Hospital has the resources to provide the best treatments for stroke," said Pam D'Amore, administrative director, St. Joseph's Hospital Heart Institute. "We are happy to be able to offer patients a better chance of recovery with minimal disability."

The catalyst for every successful outcome at St. Joseph's Hospital is a Stroke Alert, a call to action for members of the hospital's stroke team.

One goal of the stroke team is to transport the patient to the emergency center's CT scanner within 45 minutes of the patient's arrival in order to determine available treatment options for the patient.

Following the appropriate treatment, the patient is brought to the ICU for recovery and receives speech, physical and occupational therapies from members of the stroke team.

The stroke team at St. Joseph's Hospital has the specialized staff and cutting-edge technology to reach its primary goal of meeting the national standard of 90 minutes from patient arrival to treatment for stroke.

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. St. Joseph's Hospital seeks to optimally treat those who have suffered a stroke and provide the latest treatment options available.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Mechanical Embolus Removal in Cerebral Ischemia (MERCi) catheter has drastically changed the outcomes for stroke patients at St. Joseph's Hospital. Please contact the public relations department to speak with an expert to learn about the MERCi catheter.