Primary Stroke Center Certification

*Primary Stroke Certification* serves as a notice that the organization has the capacity to stabilize and treat acute stroke patients, provide acute care, and administer tPA and other acute therapies safely and efficiently.

This certification signifies that the organization has demonstrated and is clearly committed to providing excellent stroke care to its patients. Hospitals that have established stroke centers have demonstrated improved treatment and better patient outcomes. Moreover, Primary Stroke centers have the required infrastructure and protocols in place to stabilize and provide rapid and evidence-based care to acute stroke patients.

**To achieve this advanced level of certification:**

- The program director must have extensive experience in acute stroke
- Stroke protocols must be reviewed annually with current best practice guidelines
- Stroke code team arrival at bedside must be within 15 minutes
- Lab testing and advanced imaging capabilities must be available 24/7
- Must have access to neurologists 24/7
- Must have a designation stroke unit
- Staff must meet annual stroke care education requirements
- Must have neurosurgical expertise available or able to transfer patients within two hours
- Must collect stroke measures and submit to CMS
- Hospitals may also participate in the Paul Coverdell Registry or AHA ‘Get With the Guidelines’

Certification Status

Certification is awarded to a healthcare facility following an onsite review for compliance with the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Programs, Primary Stroke Certification Standards. Compliance is assessed in three domains: *Governance* that demonstrates organizational commitment to structural and resource requirements; *Clinical* whereby the organization is required to demonstrate current clinical guidelines and staff education; and *Support* in which the hospital demonstrates ongoing quality improvement through collecting and monitoring clinical practice, stroke measures and patient outcomes.

This Hospital Participates in the CMS Core Stroke Measures

This certification indicates the hospital participates in the data collection and measure reporting to improve clinical practice and patient outcomes. Measures submitted to CMS include:

1. Thrombolytic Therapy 0-3 hr
2. Antithrombotic Therapy By End of Hospital Day 2
3. Discharged on Antithrombotic Therapy
4. Anticoagulation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter at Discharge
5. Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prophylaxis
6. Discharged on Statin Medication at Discharge
7. Stroke Education
8. Assessed for Rehabilitation