



GOOD SHEPHERD MEDICAL CENTER'S STROKE CARE PROGRAM AWARDED CERTIFICATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

*Good Shepherd Medical Center Becomes the Only
Primary Stroke Center to Offer Neurology Care 24/7*

LONGVIEW, TX (March 30, 2010) – Good Shepherd Medical Center has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. Good Shepherd earned this distinction after the Joint Commission conducted an on-site review on Friday, March 26.

“Good Shepherd Medical Center demonstrated that its stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients,” says Jean E. Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q., executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

Each year about 700,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke, which is the nation’s third leading cause of death. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds and someone dies of a stroke every 3.1 minutes. Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States, with about 4.7 million stroke survivors alive today. Good Shepherd alone sees approximately 50 of these stroke patients per month.

“We’re proud to achieve the distinction,” says Ed Banos, Good Shepherd Medical Center president and CEO. “Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center Certification recognizes our commitment to providing outstanding care to our patients and our community. Our staff has shown the dedication it takes to receive this certification.”

Good Shepherd covers a wide range of aspects when it comes to caring for stroke patients. The Medical Center employs a neuro-hospitalist whose practice is dedicated to treating hospitalized stroke patients and also has neurosurgery coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week supported by an in-house OR team. Good Shepherd’s results exceed national benchmarks for successful administration of tPA, the clot-busting drug used to treat stroke during the earliest stages. In addition, Good Shepherd offers the only area support group for stroke patients with efforts to improve awareness and education of stroke signs and symptoms.

“Good Shepherd has an experienced and dedicated team which includes our House Supervisor, Rapid Response Team, ICU RNs and Emergency Department that all respond to acute strokes to provide the most comprehensive care to our stroke patients,” said Dr. Ruth Caesar, Good Shepherd stroke program medical director and neurohospitalist.

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 Joint Commission launched the program—the nation's first—in 2003. A list of programs certified by the Joint Commission is available at www.jointcommission.org.

Joint Commission

Founded in 1951, 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. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. In addition, the Joint Commission provides certification of disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about the Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

Good Shepherd Medical Center

Good Shepherd Medical Center is the area's preferred hospital with a strong history and reputation for providing high quality, compassionate medical care. A full service, acute-care 425-bed regional referral center, Good Shepherd operates specialty nursing units including cardiology, orthopaedics, general surgery, neurology/neurosurgery, oncology, critical care, obstetrics and pediatrics, where nurses are able to provide specialized care.

Good Shepherd Medical Center has received recognition by the nation's leading independent ratings companies such as Healthgrades and CareChex. Good Shepherd is Longview's only Level II Trauma Center, the area's first Level IIIa NICU and Longview's only Primary Stroke Center who offers neurosurgery coverage every day of the year.

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