



Contact: Tara Powdrill
(903) 315-5274
tmpowdrill@gsmc.org

GOOD SHEPHERD MEDICAL CENTER'S PRIMARY STROKE CENTER RECEIVES BRONZE PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*American Heart Association Recognizes Good Shepherd for
Achieving Get With The Guidelines® Standards*

LONGVIEW, TX (June 8, 2010) – Good Shepherd Medical Center has earned American Heart Association and American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® Bronze Performance Achievement Award and recognition as a Get With The Guidelines – Heart Failure Participating Hospital.

In order to earn the bronze status, Good Shepherd had to achieve at least 90 consecutive days of 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines Stroke Performance Achievement indicators to improve quality of patient care and outcomes. Out of the seven indicators listed, for 90 days Good Shepherd was 100 percent compliant for five sections; the last two falling in the 90 percent range.

According to Get With The Guidelines, the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke puts the expertise of the American Stroke Association to work for hospital teams, helping to ensure that the care they provide to stroke patients is aligned with the latest scientific guidelines.

Most hospitals that implement the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke quality improvement program realize measurable results. It's a difference that shows in the lives of patients and their families, in the satisfaction felt by caregivers empowered to do their best and in the financial health of participating hospitals.

"Good Shepherd has stayed busy and worked hard to treat every stroke with quality care and precision," Dr. Ruth Caesar, Stroke Medical Director said. "Our team has exceeded national guidelines for stroke care and in the past few months our monthly average of stroke has increased to approximately 60 stroke patients."

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 60 of these stroke patients per month.

“We’re proud to achieve the recognition,” says Ed Banos, Good Shepherd Medical Center president and CEO. “Both the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize our commitment to providing outstanding care to our patients and our community. Our staff has shown the dedication it takes to receive this award and will continue to achieve high standards.”

Good Shepherd covers a wide range of aspects when it comes to caring for stroke patients. The hospital employs a neuro-hospitalist whose practice is dedicated to treating hospitalized stroke patients. Good Shepherd has neurosurgery coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week and an In-House OR team. Good Shepherd is the only hospital in Longview to earn a perfect score on its Joint Commission Primary Stroke Certification and offers the only Stroke Support Group in this area with efforts to improve awareness and education of stroke signs and symptoms. Good Shepherd has also exceeded national benchmarks for successfully administering tPA.

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