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North Shore Medical Center Receives Get With The Guidelines-Silver Quality Achievement Award

MIAMI, Fla., November 9, 2011 – North Shore Medical Center has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®–Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes North Shore Medical Center’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

“With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the Get With The Guidelines–Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award addresses the important element of time,” said Manny Linares, North Shore Medical Center chief executive officer. North Shore Medical Center has developed a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department. This includes always being equipped to provide brain imaging scans, having neurologists available to conduct patient evaluations and using clot-busting medications when appropriate.

To receive the Get With The Guidelines–Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award, North Shore Medical Center consistently complied for at least one year with the requirements in the Get With The Guidelines–Stroke program. These include aggressive use of medications like tPA, antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol reducing drugs, and smoking cessation. This twelve-month evaluation period is the second in an ongoing self-evaluation by the hospital to continually reach the 85 percent compliance level needed to sustain this award.

“The American Stroke Association commends North Shore Medical Center for its success in implementing standards of care and protocols,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., chair of the Get With The Guidelines National Steering Committee and director of the TeleStroke and Acute Stroke Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. “The full implementation of acute care and secondary prevention recommendations and guidelines is a critical step in saving the lives and improving outcomes of stroke patients.”

Get With The Guidelines–Stroke uses the “teachable moment,” the time soon after a patient has had a stroke, when they are most likely to listen to and follow their healthcare professionals’ guidance. Studies demonstrate that patients who are taught how to manage their risk factors while still in the hospital reduce their risk of a second heart attack or stroke. Through Get With

The Guidelines–Stroke, customized patient education materials are made available at the point of discharge, based on patients’ individual risk profiles. The take-away materials are written in an easy-to-understand format and are available in English and Spanish. In addition, the Get With The Guidelines Patient Management Tool provides access to up-to-date cardiovascular and stroke science at the point of care.

“The time is right for North Shore Medical Center to be focused on improving the quality of stroke care by implementing Get With The Guidelines–Stroke. The number of acute ischemic stroke patients eligible for treatment is expected to grow over the next decade due to increasing stroke incidence and a large aging population,” said Linares.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is one of the leading causes of death and serious, long-term disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

About North Shore Medical Center

North Shore Medical Center, part of Tenet Healthcare, is a 357-bed general acute care community hospital located at 1100 NW 95 Street in Miami. The hospital has been serving the medical and health care needs of its community for more than 53 years. North Shore Medical Center offers a broad range of services, including 24-hour emergency care with Fast Track service, maternity, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and psychiatric services. The hospital also offers specialized centers, including the C. Gordon Griffith Comprehensive Cancer Center with IMRT and X-Knife Radiosurgery, Intensive Care Unit, Wound Healing Center, Sleep Disorders Center, and Pain Care Center. The hospital has earned several CIGNA quality designations, including those for adult pneumonia, cesarean section, heart attack, heart failure, laparoscopic gallbladder removal, stroke, and vaginal delivery.

From 2006-2011 North Shore Medical Center has consistently won achievement awards with the American Heart Association’s *Get With The Guidelines* program. Most recently, North Shore Medical Center earned the *Get With The Guidelines* Gold Performance Achievement Award in Heart Failure treatment and Silver Award for stroke care.

North Shore Medical Center is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation’s oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. The Joint Commission has also certified North Shore Medical Center as a Primary Stroke Center. To learn more about North Shore Medical Center, visit www.northshoremical.com.

About Get With The Guidelines

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that empowers healthcare teams to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by helping hospitals follow evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. For more information, visit heart.org/quality.

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