



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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North Shore Medical Center Awarded Certification from The Joint Commission

Miami, FL (March 2011) – After undergoing an on-site evaluation and demonstrating compliance with nationally developed standards for stroke care, North Shore Medical Center has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval™ for certification as a Primary Stroke Center.

“In stroke care time is brain,” says Jean E. Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q., executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, The Joint Commission. “By achieving certification as a Primary Stroke Center, North Shore Medical Center has proven that it has the ability to provide effective, timely care to stroke victims and can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients.”

Each year about 795,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke, which is the nation’s third leading cause of death. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 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.

“We’re proud to achieve this distinction from The Joint Commission,” says Manny Linares, CEO of North Shore Medical Center. “We are pleased to have The Joint Commission recognize our commitment to providing the best possible care to our patients and our community.”

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 and 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.qualitycheck.org.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 18,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. 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.

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 was honored with the prestigious Tenet *Circle of Excellence* award for outstanding performance in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008, and received the 2006 CIGNA Centers of Excellence designation for caesarean section, stroke and syncope.

From 2006-2010 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 was featured in a special advertisement in the 2010 "America's Best Hospitals" issue of *US News & World Report* to commemorate their receipt of *Get With The Guidelines* Gold Performance Achievement Award in Coronary Artery Disease treatment. In 2008/2009/2010, North Shore Medical Center also received a five-star rating of clinical excellence for maternity care from HealthGrades®.

North Shore Medical Center is Accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission On Cancer Commendation, 2005-2008; and has received the FMQAI's Performance Achievement Award for Hospital Quality improvement. The hospital is also fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. To learn more about North Shore Medical Center, visit www.northshoremedical.com.