



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

**HCA Florida West Hospital
Kendrick Doidge
850-494-4300**

HCA Florida West Hospital Nationally Recognized for Commitment to Providing High-Quality Stroke Care

The American Heart Association presents Get With The Guidelines - Stroke Gold Plus with Target Stroke Honor Roll Elite award for proven dedication to ensuring all stroke patients have access to best practices and life-saving care

PENSACOLA, FL— HCA Florida West Hospital has received the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus with Target Stroke Honor Roll Elite quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and accelerating recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence-based guidelines. [Get With The Guidelines - Stroke](#) is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death.

“HCA Florida West Hospital is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines,” **said Fatma Gaydon, RN Stroke Program Coordinator for HCA Florida West Hospital.** “Get With The Guidelines makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis, which studies show can help

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patients recover better. The end goal is to ensure more people in Northwest Florida can experience longer, healthier lives.”

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

“We are incredibly pleased to recognize HCA Florida West Hospital for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke,” **said Steven Messe, M.D., chairperson of the Stroke System of Care Advisory Group.** “Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families and communities.”



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About HCA Florida West Hospital

HCA Florida West Hospital, located in Pensacola, Florida is a full service acute care hospital that has proudly cared for Northwest Florida for more than 45 years. Our top priority is to exceed patient expectations with the highest quality and most compassionate team of healthcare professionals. Our fully accredited healthcare facility strives to provide state-of-the-art technologies and best practices in evidence-based care. Currently, our hospital campus includes the acute care hospital, an inpatient, CARF accredited rehabilitation facility and an Age Friendly designated mental health facility. In addition, we are also pleased to partner with the University of Central Florida to offer Graduate Medical Education Residency Programs.

The area’s first Accredited Chest Pain Center and Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, West Florida Hospital is also the first hospital in the state of Florida to have earned Atrial Fibrillation with Electrophysiology Services Accreditation. In addition, West Florida Healthcare is an Advanced Primary Stroke Center.

Affiliated with HCA, the nation’s leading provider of healthcare, West Florida Healthcare meets the community’s healthcare needs in major services such as cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, orthopedics, pediatrics, robotic-assisted surgery, critical care, neurology/neurosurgery, emergency care, urology, behavioral health, gastroenterology, obstetrics, pulmonary, and rehabilitative medicine.

About Get With The Guidelines®

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 12 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit heart.org.