

Immediate Release

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Christiana Hospital Earns Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification

(NEWARK, Del. – July 16, 2014) Christiana Care Health System’s Christiana Hospital has earned Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification by The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

Christiana Hospital now joins fewer than 80 health care systems nationwide with this advanced certification. The designation affirms that Christiana Hospital offers the medical expertise and state-of-the-art infrastructure that is necessary to successfully treat the most complex stroke cases.

The designation also recognizes that Christiana Hospital’s stroke program helps patients beyond the walls of the hospital through coordination of follow-up care and community outreach on stroke prevention.

“At Christiana Care, we partner with our patients to provide them the most effective stroke care,” said Jonathan Raser-Schramm, MD, and Ph.D., medical director of Christiana Care’s Stroke Program. “The Comprehensive Stroke Certification recognizes that we’re capable of treating patients in the first minutes and hours after stroke symptoms with a full range of emergency stroke treatments.”

Christiana Care ranks in the top 10 nationwide in the number of stroke cases it handles, treating more than 1,100 cases annually.

The Joint Commission awarded the designation only after conducting a rigorous, two-day, on-site review in May. Joint Commission experts reviewed Christiana Care’s ability to provide complex stroke care, including its advanced imaging capabilities, round-the-clock availability of specialized treatments and the capability of its staff to care for complex stroke patients.

Christiana Hospital’s medical team is comprised of physicians with expertise in multiple areas of stroke and cerebrovascular disease, including stroke neurologists, neurosurgeons, neurocritical care specialists and interventional neuroradiologists, who perform advanced procedures and treatments. The comprehensive certification acknowledges that Christiana Hospital has that specialized expertise available 24/7.

Surveyors who visited the hospital were particularly impressed by the state-of-the-art facilities in Christiana Hospital’s new, 18-bed Lanny Edelsohn, M.D., Neuro Critical Care Unit, a patient care unit solely devoted to patients with immediate life-threatening problems affecting the brain,

spinal cord or peripheral nerves. The unit provides patients their greatest chance of survival through the expert care that is critical to treating serious neurovascular illnesses and injuries.

"By achieving this advanced certification, Christiana Care has thoroughly demonstrated the greatest level of commitment to the care of its patients with a complex stroke condition," said Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president, The Joint Commission. "Certification is a voluntary process and The Joint Commission commends Christiana Care for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate the standard of its care for the community it serves."

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 11th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as for its Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest capability). Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/howeare.

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