



Comprehensive Stroke Center



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**University of Utah Health Care Stroke Center Receives
Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award
with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite**

*American Heart Association recognizes the Stroke Center at
University of Utah Health Care commitment to quality stroke care*

SALT LAKE CITY: May 9, 2016 — [The Stroke Center](#) at University of Utah Health Care (UUHC) has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s [Get With The Guidelines®](#)-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll Elite. The award recognizes the hospital’s commitment to providing the most appropriate stroke treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

Hospitals must achieve 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Stroke achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month periods and achieve 75 percent or higher compliance with five of eight Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality measures to receive the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

To qualify for the Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or [tPA](#), the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat [ischemic stroke](#). If given intravenously in the first three hours after the start of stroke symptoms, tPA has been shown to significantly reduce the effects of stroke and lessen the chance of permanent disability. UUHC’s Stroke Center earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period.

These quality measures are designed to help hospital teams follow the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

“A stroke patient loses 1.9 million neurons each minute stroke treatment is delayed. This recognition further demonstrates our commitment to delivering advanced stroke treatments to patients quickly and safely,” said [Jennifer Majersik](#), Director of the Stroke Center at UUHC. “As the Intermountain West’s most experienced Comprehensive Stroke Center, and with a renowned [Telestroke](#) program that touches 26 community hospitals in a six-state region, University of Utah Health Care has again and again proven our excellence in the acute

treatment of stroke patients. The recognition from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke further reinforces our team's hard work."

The Stroke Center at UUHC has also met specific scientific guidelines as a [Comprehensive Stroke Center](#), featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department.

"The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize UUHC's Stroke Center for its commitment to stroke care," said Paul Heidenreich, M.D., M.S., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee and Professor of Medicine at Stanford University. "Research has shown there are benefits to patients who are treated at hospitals that have adopted the Get With The Guidelines program."

Get With The Guidelines®-S puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping hospital care teams ensure the care provided to patients is aligned with the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal to save lives and improve recovery time, Get With The Guidelines®-S has impacted more than 3 million patients since 2003.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is a leading cause of adult disability in the United States and the fifth highest cause of death. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, someone dies of a stroke every four minutes, and nearly 800,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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About University of Utah Health Care and the Stroke Center

The [University of Utah Stroke Center](#) is a national, [DNV GL-accredited](#) leader in comprehensive stroke care. With a dedicated team specializing in stroke treatment that is available 24/7 for patients, the center offers an accredited specialty [stroke rehabilitation program](#), as well as provides care to 23 rural and underserved areas via [Telestroke](#) (telemedicine).

University of Utah Health Care is the Intermountain West's only academic health care system, providing leading-edge and compassionate medicine for the people of Utah and a referral area encompassing five states and more than 10 percent of the continental United States. The health system includes four hospitals – University of Utah Hospital; the University of Utah Orthopaedic Center; University Neuropsychiatric Institute; and Huntsman Cancer Hospital – with more than 1,300 physicians practicing more than 150 medical specialties. University of Utah Health Care has ranked among the top 10 U.S. academic medical centers in the rigorous University HealthSystem Consortium Quality and Accountability study for six years running. It also is also consistently ranked among the country's best hospitals in *U.S. News and World Report's annual Best Hospitals list*.

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 tools and resources to increase adherence to 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 6 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit heart.org.