

Eisenhower Medical Center Certified as Advanced Primary Stroke Center

In December 2013, Eisenhower Medical Center was designated a Certified Advanced Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission, a two-year recertification — at a higher level — of the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers in 2009. Eisenhower's 2009 certification was the first in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

To receive designation as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center, Eisenhower participated in a rigorous application process and submitted data on stroke admissions, treatment plans and outcomes.

“We've gained a lot of experience during the last five years because our service line has so much depth,” says Deborah Bayer, BSN, RN, CCRN, SCRN, Stroke Coordinator, Eisenhower Medical Center. “We've created protocols and put processes in place that result in high quality outcomes. The numbers we submitted to The Joint Commission have all been nearly perfect in the last quarter, which is unheard of. We added Stroke Nurse Practitioner Carol Marietta, RN, NP-C to our team and she has increased our ability to provide exceptional care because of her background in Intensive Care.”

The combined efforts of a multidisciplinary team of neurologists, interventional neuroradiologists, hospitalists, nurse practitioners and emergency physicians — all trained to assess acute ischemic stroke, the most common type of stroke, caused by blood clots that block blood flow to the brain, helped meet the strict national standards for providing safe, high-quality care to stroke patients.

“Not every hospital provides this level of care,” explains Sue Effinger, RN, MSN/MHA, Director, Neurological Care Unit, Eisenhower Medical Center. “We have stroke neurologists, three interventional radiologists, and neurosurgeons on call, which means we can provide comprehensive, specialized care for stroke patients 24/7. The result is immediate diagnosis and treatment during a critical window of time.”

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