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Stroke Program Awarded Recertification

Eisenhower Medical Center's Stroke Program has earned advanced recertification of its primary stroke center by The Joint Commission, earning the distinction after The Joint Commission's recent on-site review. Eisenhower's 2009 certification was the first in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

"The Joint Commission's recertification acknowledges the incredible teamwork and clinical excellence physicians, staff and administration," Ann Mostofi, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President, Patient Care Services. "Moreover, it underscores Eisenhower's ongoing commitment to our patients and community by providing the very best patient care."

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, emergency physicians and specialty-trained nurses — all trained to assess acute ischemic stroke, 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."

Stroke, the nation's third leading cause of death, affects nearly 700,000 people every year. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 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 nearly 4.7 million stroke survivors alive today. Ischemic stroke is the most common type of stroke caused by blood clots that block blood flow to the brain.

The Joint Commission's certification is based on the recommendations for primary stroke centers published by the Brain Attack Coalition and the American Stroke Association's statements/guidelines for stroke care. The Joint Commission launched the program — the nation's first — in 2003. A list of organizations certified by the Joint Commission is available at http://www.jointcommission.org/.

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