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## News Release

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### **University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center Receives Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke Elite Plus**

*American Heart Association Award recognizes UH Elyria's commitment to quality stroke care*

**ELYRIA, OH** — University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement award with Target: Stroke<sup>SM</sup> Elite Plus. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring that stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

UH Elyria Medical Center earned the Gold Plus Quality Achievement award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health and have a follow-up visit scheduled as well as other care transition interventions.

"UH Elyria is dedicated to improving the quality of our care for stroke patients by implementing the American Heart Association's Get With the Guidelines-Stroke initiative," said Terry Gallagher, BSN, RN, Clinical Stroke Coordinator at UH Elyria Medical Center. "The tools and resources provided help us track and measure our success in meeting evidence-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes."

Additionally, UH Elyria Medical Center received the association's Target: Stroke<sup>SM</sup> Elite Plus award. To qualify for this recognition, the hospital met 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.

"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 Gallagher. "We continue to strive for 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."

"We are pleased to recognize University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center for their commitment to stroke care," said Eric E. Smith, M.D., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee and an associate professor of neurology at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. "Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates."

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, someone dies of a stroke every four minutes, and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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#### **About University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center**

Founded in 1908, University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center is a 387-licensed bed hospital with additional campuses in Amherst, Avon and Sheffield Village. Part of the University Hospitals health system, UH Elyria Medical Center offers patients access to UH Cleveland Medical Center, a nationally recognized academic medical center, as well as programs from internationally recognized centers of excellence such as UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute. UH Elyria Medical Center has been designated a certified primary stroke center by the Joint Commission and has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award for its treatment of heart attack patients. For more information, visit [UHElyria.org](http://UHElyria.org).

#### **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](http://heart.org).