



Northridge Hospital Medical Center

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NEWS RELEASE

August 17, 2009

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NORTHRIDGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER'S STROKE CARE PROGRAM AWARDED CERTIFICATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

Northridge, CA...Northridge Hospital Medical Center has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. Northridge Hospital earned this distinction after the Joint Commission conducted an on-site review in August.

“Northridge Hospital Medical Center demonstrated that its stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients,” says Jean E. Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q., executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

Each year about 700,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke, which is the nation's third leading cause of death. On average, someone suffers a stroke ever 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 about 4.7 million stroke survivors alive today.

“We're proud to have achieved this coveted distinction,” says Ronald Ziman, Medical Director for the Stroke Center, “The Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center Certification recognizes Northridge Hospital's commitment to providing outstanding care to our patients and our community. This distinction is also very important to us as we continue to serve a growing and aged population that will need a wide range of health related care.”

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center 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 programs certified by the Joint Commission is available at www.jointcommission.org.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

Northridge Hospital Medical Center is a 411-bed facility serving the San Fernando Valley for more than 50 years. As a nonprofit, community based hospital, Northridge Hospital offers a full spectrum of healthcare programs and Centers of Excellence.

Northridge Hospital is affiliated with Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) and shares with them a long and rich legacy of caring and compassion.

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