

## Stroke Unit

West Jefferson Medical Center's Stroke Unit earned the Joint Commission's designation as Louisiana's first Nationally Certified Primary Stroke Unit in 2006.

Our team is dedicated to offering the most comprehensive program of its kind in Louisiana.

When a patient comes to the Emergency Department with symptoms of a stroke:

- A Certified Stroke Nurse and Stroke Team is available around the clock, seven days a week, to evaluate a stroke patient within 10 minutes of arrival
- Each patient is evaluated and treated using a uniform and extensive set of evidence-based guidelines that addresses both emergency treatments and ongoing care
- Continuously available brain imaging with interpretation and rapid laboratory testing
- Strong clinical leadership and commitment from administration

Stroke Patients in our community receive the highest level of stroke treatment available in the nation.



West Jefferson Medical Center, Louisiana's first Primary Stroke Center  
Certified by Joint Commission

Joint Commission Stroke Certification means that West Jefferson Medical Center has the critical elements necessary to achieve long-term success in improving patient evaluation and managing stroke care.

The Joint Commission is a quality oversight body for healthcare organizations and managed care in the United States. This Certification confirms our commitment to a high level of care to patients and families affected by stroke and TIA. Most importantly, Joint Commission Certified Stroke Centers rapidly assess patients, provide complete diagnostic testing within 45 minutes of arrival to the hospital with acute onset of stroke symptoms. By meeting this standard, treatment options are created for individual needs for each patient.

Being accredited as a Primary Stroke center means that the services the hospital provides to stroke patients meet rigorous national standards for stroke care and have the critical elements needed for long term success in improving outcomes.

Our Stroke Team is involved in the daily care of stroke patients, providing patient, family, and community education on stroke risk factor modification, primary and secondary prevention of stroke, warning signs of stroke and the use of 9-1-1 when symptoms develop.

In addition to receiving the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval, West Jefferson Medical Center's Stroke Team achieved at least 85 percent compliance rate of the stroke performance measures for 12 consecutive months in accordance with guidelines set by the American Heart Association / American Stroke Association, earning the highest award in the 1 year category, the prestigious Silver Performance Achievement Award.

### **The Inpatient Stroke Unit**

- 8 bed unit including 3 beds designated for critical care and 5 acute step-down beds
- 1:4 Nurse / Patient ratio
- Average length of stay 3 – 5 days
- Specially trained Stroke Certified Registered Nurses
- Frequent diagnoses include acute ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes, post coil embolization, Epilepsy and a wide variety of other neurological disorders.
- Interdisciplinary approach to care involves Neurologists, Neurosurgeons, Neurovascular Interventionalists, Neurosurgery Residents, Vascular Surgeons, Registered Nurses, Dietary, Pharmacy, Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation Services, Social Workers and Case Management

### **Our Program**

- Treat more than 350 strokes per year
- The only program in our area with a designated Stroke Unit
- Provide up-to-date community education about stroke risks, symptoms and treatment

### **What is Stroke?**

A **stroke** is an interruption of the blood supply to any part of the brain. A **stroke** is sometimes called a "brain attack."

A transient ischemic attack (TIA) is an episode in which a person has stroke -like symptoms for less than 24 hours, usually less than 1-2 hours.

A TIA is often considered a warning sign that a true stroke may happen in the future if something is not done to prevent it.

Hemorrhagic **stroke** involves bleeding within the brain, which damages nearby brain tissue.

### **Stroke Statistics**

About 780,000 Americans each year suffer a new or recurrent stroke. That means, on average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds. Stroke is the No. 3 cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of serious disability.

Stroke kills more than 150,000 people a year. That's about 1 of every 16 deaths. It's the No. 3 cause of death behind diseases of the heart and cancer.

On average, every 3 to 4 minutes someone dies of stroke.

Of every 5 deaths from stroke, 2 occur in men and 3 in women.

The 2004 stroke death rates per 100,000 population for specific groups were 48.1 for white males, 47.2 for white females, 74.9 for black males and 65.5 for black females.

Americans will pay about \$65.5 billion in 2008 for stroke-related medical costs and disability.

### **Stroke Signs and Symptoms**

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg
- Sudden difficulty speaking or understanding language
- Sudden unexplained dizziness or loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache without apparent cause
- Sudden onset of double vision, dimness or loss of vision

**CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW EXPERIENCES THESE SYMPTOMS!!!**

<http://psa.americanheart.org/web.html#ptes>