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**North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus Receives Get With The Guidelines
Gold Quality Achievement Award for Stroke Care**

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. (November 9, 2011) – North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus recently received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®–Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment for at least 24 months according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

“With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the Get With The Guidelines–Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award addresses the important element of time,” said Ben A. Rodriguez, chief administrative officer of North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus. North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus has developed a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department. This includes always being equipped to provide brain imaging scans, having neurologists available to conduct patient evaluations and using clot-busting medications when appropriate.

To receive the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award, North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus demonstrated 85% adherence in the Get With The Guidelines–Stroke key measures for 24 or more consecutive months. These include aggressive use of medications like tPA, antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol-reducing drugs, and smoking cessation.

“The American Stroke Association commends North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus for its success in implementing standards of care and protocols,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., chair of the Get With The Guidelines National Steering Committee and director of the TeleStroke and Acute Stroke Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. “The full implementation of acute care and secondary prevention recommendations and guidelines is a critical step in saving the lives and improving outcomes of stroke patients.”

Get With The Guidelines–Stroke uses the “teachable moment,” the time soon after a patient has had a stroke, when they are most likely to listen to and follow their healthcare professionals’ guidance. Studies demonstrate that patients who are taught how to manage their risk factors while still in the hospital reduce their risk of a second heart attack or stroke. Through Get With The Guidelines–Stroke, customized patient education materials are made available at the point of discharge, based on patients’ individual risk profiles. The take-away materials are written in an easy-to-understand format and are available in English and Spanish. In addition, the Get With The Guidelines Patient Management Tool provides access to up-to-date cardiovascular and stroke science at the point of care.

“The time is right for North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus to be focused on improving the quality of stroke care by implementing Get With The Guidelines–Stroke. The number of acute ischemic stroke patients eligible for treatment is expected to grow over the next decade due to increasing stroke incidence and a large aging population,” said Rodriguez.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is one of the leading causes of death and serious, long-term disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

About North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus

North Shore Medical Center FMC Campus, part of Tenet’s Miami-Dade/Broward Health Network, is a 459-bed acute care hospital founded in 1973 and fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Located at 5000 West Oakland Park Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale in western Broward County, FMC Campus offers a broad range of medical and surgical services. Its Heart Institute of Florida, the hospital’s center for cardiac services, is a Joint Commission Certified Advanced Primary Stroke Center, Accredited Chest Pain Center with PCI, and has received recognition from the American Heart Association’s “Get With the Guidelines”, for Gold Performance Achievement in Heart Failure, Coronary and Stroke. FMC Campus is also recognized by UnitedHealthcare as a Premium Specialty Care Center for cardiovascular surgery, electrophysiology, and interventional cardiology and by Blue Cross Blue Shield Florida Blue Distinction Center for cardiac care. FMC Campus’s additional services include the Surgical Weight Loss Institute recognized by the American Society for Bariatric Services as a Bariatric Center of Excellence, neurology and neurosurgery, cancer care, orthopedics, urology, psychiatry, gynecology, imaging, pain center, sleep lab, wound care, and 24-hour emergency services.

About Get With The Guidelines

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that empowers healthcare teams to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by helping hospitals follow evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. For more information, visit heart.org/quality.

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