

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sacred Heart Hospital Receives the American Stroke Association's Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The American Stroke Association has recognized Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola for excellence in stroke care. Sacred Heart received the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for the tenth year in a row and was named to the Target Stroke Honor Roll for the second consecutive year.

To qualify for this recognition, Sacred Heart had to demonstrate quick access to treatment for stroke patients arriving at the hospital. This award is also based on Sacred Heart's adherence to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines designed to reduce the number of deaths related to stroke, minimize disability, create awareness of prevention, and help reduce the cost of healthcare.

"This award reflects a decade of work in building the region's only comprehensive stroke center," said Dr. Terry Neill, a critical care neurologist and medical director of the Sacred Heart Regional Stroke Center. "When it comes to stroke, time lost is brain lost. Rapid response to stroke allows for the use of medicines and interventional procedures that can prevent death or disability."

Sacred Heart is also the region's only Comprehensive Stroke Center, as designated by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, and also offers the area's only endovascular neurosurgeon, Dr. Maria Toledo, and the area's only vascular neurologist and neurointensivist, Dr. Terry Neill. Sacred Heart is part of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system.

According to the American Stroke Association, stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, with one of every 20 deaths coming from stroke. Approximately 795,000 people suffer a stroke each year. On average, someone in the U.S. has a stroke every 40 seconds, and someone dies of a stroke every four minutes. More women than men have strokes each year, in part because women live longer. Nationally, African Americans are more impacted by stroke than any other racial group.

For more information on Sacred Heart's Regional Stroke Center, please call (850) 416-2337 or visit www.sacred-heart.org/neuro.

The warning signs of stroke include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola is a 566-bed regional medical center that was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1915. The hospital offers a Level II Trauma Center, a Cancer Center affiliated with MD Anderson Cancer Network, a Heart and Vascular Institute, The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, the regional center for high-risk pregnancy and the area's most preferred Maternity and Women's Center. For more information, visit www.sacred-heart.org/pensacola.

About Sacred Heart Health System

On the Gulf Coast, Ascension operates Sacred Heart Health System based in Pensacola, Fla. and Providence Hospital and Providence Medical Group based in Mobile, Ala. Together, these Ascension healthcare facilities have served Gulf Coast communities for more than 160 years and they employ more than 6,600 associates. Across the region, Ascension provided more than \$113 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in fiscal year 2016. Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension is the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, operating 2,600 sites of care – including 151 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 22 states and the District of Columbia. For more on Sacred Heart Health System, visit www.sacred-heart.org.

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