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Waterbury Hospital's Stroke Program Receives Bronze Performance Achievement Award

WATERBURY -- The Primary Stroke Center at Waterbury Hospital has been given the American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines – Stroke Bronze Performance Achievement Award for consistently meeting the highest standards of care for stroke patients.

The award is given to hospital stroke programs that follow nationally accepted standards and guidelines for stroke treatment for a period of 90 consecutive days. A Silver Award is given when the guidelines are followed for a full year, which is the Primary Stroke Center's next goal, said Steven Eisen, MD, Medical Director of the Stroke Center.

"We are very pleased to be recognized in this way, and we look forward to achieving the Silver Award in the near future," Dr. Eisen said. "We feel this award signifies a well-deserved recognition of our staff's dedication to providing the very best care for our patients."

Kelly Poskus, RN, the hospital's Stroke Center coordinator, said the stroke program staff regularly see the devastation caused by strokes, which is why they are so motivated to teach people how to prevent them.

"We try to be as comprehensive as possible, both in terms of treatment and education," Poskus said.

The treatment guidelines set by the American Stroke Association include aggressive use of medications, anticoagulation therapy, cholesterol reducing drugs, smoking cessation programs and other methods of preventing and treating incidences of stroke. Every year in the U.S. approximately 795,000 people suffer a stroke, which is the cause of death for one out of every 18 deaths.

"The American Stroke Association commends Waterbury Hospital for its success in implementing standards of care and protocol," said Lee H. Schwamm, MD, Vice-Chair of the national Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee.

Waterbury Hospital is the largest private employer in the Greater Waterbury region, and serves a vital role in the economic vitality of Western Connecticut. It is a private, non-profit acute care teaching hospital licensed for 367 beds and affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine, the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Founded in 1890 as Waterbury's first and Connecticut's fourth hospital, Waterbury Hospital is a full-service community health-care institution with centers of excellence in primary care, cardiac services, behavioral health and orthopaedics.