

Lakeland Achieves Stroke Center Designation

Lakeland HealthCare has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ for Primary Stroke Centers from The Joint Commission after a recent on-site review.

“Achievement of this prestigious status signifies that the care the center provides meets the unique, specialized needs of Lakeland stroke patients. Only healthcare systems that are best-equipped to provide state-of-the-art stroke care earn the accreditation,” said **Robert C. Ward III, D.O., F.A.C.N.**, Medical Director of the Lakeland Stroke Center.

“About two years ago, Lakeland HealthCare assembled a multidisciplinary committee that began working toward obtaining national certification as a disease-specific Primary Stroke Center,” added **Debbie Lull, R.N., B.S.N.**, Director of Medical/Surgical Services and Chairperson of the committee. “We are pleased that our commitment to providing the highest level of stroke care to our patients has allowed us to reach our goal of certification.”

Primary Stroke Center Certification

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification program was developed in collaboration with the American Stroke Association. Based on the Brain Attack Coalition's "Recommendations for the Establishment of Primary Stroke Centers," the certification recognizes centers that make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care.

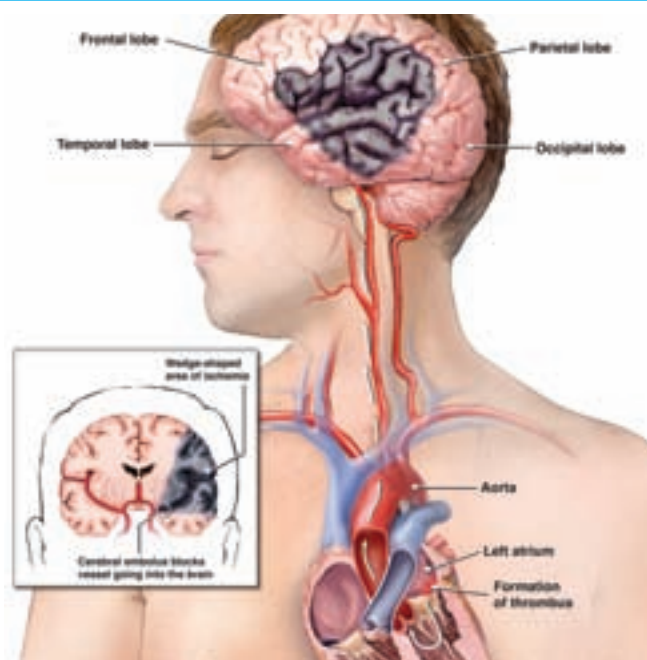
To earn this distinction, the Lakeland stroke management program underwent an extensive on-site evaluation by Joint Commission reviewers, who concluded that Lakeland:

- Complies with evidence-based national standards
- Effectively uses primary stroke center recommendations and clinical practice guidelines to manage and optimize care
- Conducts performance measurement and improvement activities

“Lakeland demonstrated that its Primary Stroke Center follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients,” said **Jean E. Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q.**, executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

Dr. Robert Ward, medical director of the Lakeland Stroke center





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"Brain Attack" Statistics

Each year, an estimated 750,000 people in the United States experience a new or recurrent stroke (i.e., "brain attack");^{1,2} which is the nation's third leading cause of death and the number one cause of adult disability. On average, someone in the US suffers a stroke every 45 seconds and someone dies of a stroke every 3 or 4 minutes. Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in America.³ In Michigan alone, it is estimated that 225,000 people have had a stroke.⁴

Stroke results in substantial healthcare expenditures; the mean lifetime cost resulting from an ischemic stroke is estimated at \$140,000 per patient. Nationwide, costs related to stroke are expected to reach an estimated \$65.5 billion in 2008.³

Knowing the Warning Signs is Key

An estimated eighty percent of strokes are preventable. As part of national stroke awareness month in May, Lakeland will conduct an extensive educational campaign focusing on the early warning signs of stroke to improve care and patient outcomes.

"Our patients are strongly encouraged to work on stroke prevention with their primary doctors. If a stroke does occur, patients should be secure in the knowledge that the team at Lakeland will provide first rate, nationally recognized stroke care," said Dr. Ward.

References

- ¹Williams GR. BMC Neurol. 2001;1:2.
- ²Williams GR, Jiang JG, Matchar DB, et al. Stroke. 1999;30:2523-2528.
- ³Rosamond W, Flegal K, Friday G, et al. Circulation. 2008;117:e25-146.
- ⁴Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MMWR. 2007;56:469-474.

Symptoms of a Stroke*

Physicians know that stroke symptoms are distinct because they happen suddenly.

The Lakeland HealthCare campaign to educate the community about the symptoms of stroke includes the recommendation that patients should dial 9-1-1 and receive ambulance transport to an emergency department immediately if they experience any of these stroke warning signs:



- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg (especially on one side of the body)
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

*Source: The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)