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SUNRISE HOSPITAL RECEIVES AMERICAN STROKE ASSOCIATION'S GET WITH THE GUIDELINES SILVER PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

LAS VEGAS – Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center has received the American Stroke Association's Get With The GuidelinesSM–Stroke (GWTG–Stroke) Silver Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

"With a stroke time lost is brain lost. At Sunrise Hospital our team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, and nurses are available around the clock to ensure the highest level of care for our patients," said Dr. Scott Selco, medical director of stroke care. Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center 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 GWTG-Stroke Silver Performance Achievement Award, Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center consistently complied for at least one year with the requirements in the GWTG–Stroke program. These include aggressive use of medications like tPA, antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol reducing drugs, and smoking cessation. This twelve-month evaluation period is the second in an ongoing self-evaluation by the hospital to continually reach the 85 percent compliance level needed to sustain this award.

"The American Stroke Association commends Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center for its success in implementing standards of care and protocols," said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., national Get With the Guidelines Steering Committee Member and director of 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."

GWTG–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 GWTG–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 GWTG Patient Management Tool provides access to up-to-date cardiovascular and stroke science at the point of care.

"The time is right for Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center to be focused on improving the quality of stroke care by implementing GWTG–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 Dr. Selco.

According to the American Stroke Association, each year approximately 700,000 people suffer a stroke — 500,000 are first attacks and 200,000 are recurrent. Of stroke survivors, 21 percent of men and 24 percent of women die within a year, and for those aged 65 and older, the percentage is even higher.

How to spot a stroke:

The highly trained physicians and staff at The Nevada Neurosciences Institute at Sunrise want everyone to know how to spot a stroke, by asking these 3 simple questions:

- Can you smile?
- Can you raise both arms?
- Can you speak a simple sentence?

If any of these functions cannot be performed easily, call 9-1-1 immediately. You could save a life.

About Sunrise Hospital

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center provides the most sophisticated, quality healthcare in Southern Nevada. A Consumer Choice award-winning hospital for 12 consecutive years, the 701-bed acute care facility includes comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services such as The Nevada Neurosciences Institute– the region’s first JCAHO-accredited Primary Stroke Center– an ACoS-recognized Comprehensive Cancer Center, an innovative, full-service Breast Center and specialty services in cardiac, women’s health, pulmonology, critical care, complex surgery, and rehabilitation, as well as Level-II Trauma and Emergency care. The hospital has invested millions of dollars in obtaining new technologies such as the da Vinci Robotic surgery system, Intraoperative MRI machines, Gamma Knife incision-less brain surgery and an exclusive Picture Archiving and Communication System designed assist physicians in retrieving important patient data. Sharing the same campus, Sunrise Children’s Hospital provides a parallel suite of highly specialized services to maternal moms, newborns and the youth of the Southwest United States.

About GWTG

Get With The GuidelinesSM (GWTG) is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based program designed to ensure that patients are consistently treated and discharged according to evidence-based guidelines and recommendations for stroke, heart failure and coronary artery disease. GWTG was the first hospital-based program to receive the prestigious Innovation in Prevention Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2004. For more information, visit americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines.

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