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NEVADA NEUROSCIENCES INSTITUTE AT SUNRISE HOSPITAL ADMINISTERS ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE CLOT-BUSTING STROKE DRUG TO PATIENTS

AHA's International Stroke Conference features accomplishments of the NNI and above average patient numbers being administered rt-PA compared to other hospitals in the United States

LAS VEGAS— This year's annual American Heart Association's International Stroke Conference in New Orleans features a paper illustrating that the Nevada Neurosciences Institute (NNI) at Sunrise Hospital administered rt-PA to more stroke patients in a single year than any other single non-teaching institution in the nation. rt-PA is the only medication proven to be able to reverse or decrease the disability associated with ischemic strokes. In most institutions, rt-PA is given to between 1.2% and 9% of ischemic stroke patients, according to the Annals of Emergency Medicine 2007 tPA national survey. The NNI at Sunrise administered rt-PA to 20% of stroke patients seen by the stroke team.

In 1995, a study sponsored by the National Institute of Health demonstrated that intravenous rt-PA, a specialized type of stroke medication that can dissolve blood clots, can be effective when administered to acute stroke patients within three hours of the episode's onset. Many patients do not initially recognize the start of their stroke symptoms and arrive at the hospital after the window of opportunity to use the drug has passed, eliminating them from receiving the drug. Even when patients arrive at an Emergency Department in a timely fashion, many Emergency Departments are not equipped with trained and available neurologists who specialize in stroke treatment and know when rt-PA is appropriate for each patient. The NNI has overcome this obstacle by developing an experienced stroke team with four neurologists including two neurohospitalists who have no outpatient responsibilities and are available 24/7 to assess and treat patients once they arrive in the Emergency Department at Sunrise. It is the NNI's goal in presenting these findings at the International Stroke Conference to help promote a model to help overcome the barriers to high quality stroke interventions found in other institutions.

The stroke center at Sunrise Hospital is operated by the Nevada Neurosciences Institute, which, since its launch in 2004, has consistently earned national recognition in the healthcare industry for its prestigious physician staff, top-notch spine and brain surgery programs and five-star stroke services. In February 2008, the NNI was awarded recertification as a Primary Stroke Center. In addition, the American Heart and Stroke

Association honored the center with the National Silver Award for Get With the Guidelines in Stroke earlier this year.

For more information on stroke or the Nevada Neurosciences Institute, visit www.sunrisehospital.com or call 702-731-8115.

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About the Nevada Neurosciences Institute:

The Nevada Neurosciences Institute at Sunrise (NNI) is Nevada's first full-service neurosciences center, providing access to world-class patient care and pioneering medical research for brain and spine diseases, disorders and injuries. NNI offers a full range of neurosciences expertise close to home – emergency services, early diagnosis, advanced surgery, acute medical intervention, intense rehabilitation and chronic disease management. Few neurosciences centers offer the level of services available at The Nevada Neurosciences Institute at Sunrise, which include neurosurgery, neurological care, dedicated patient care units, and complete neuro-rehabilitation. In addition to these outstanding services, NNI boasts the sophisticated technologies of Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center and Sunrise Children's Hospital, which ensure that patients receive the most accurate diagnosis and advanced treatment options available.