

Memorial Hospital Receives Award for Stroke Care

PAWTUCKET – The Stroke Center at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island has received the Get With The Guidelines®–Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. This is the fifth consecutive year Memorial Hospital has been recognized by the American Heart Association for its ongoing commitment to and success in implementing a higher standard of care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally-recognized guidelines.

“Memorial’s Stroke Center boasts a collaborative, interdisciplinary team approach to stroke care that follows patients from the emergency room to home care. Our CARF-certified Center for Rehabilitation also plays an integral part in providing comprehensive care to our stroke patients,” said **JOSEPH DIAZ, MD**, physician-in-chief of Medicine.

“The Stroke Center’s teleneurology program bolsters our capabilities to provide expertise 24/7 for stroke and other neurological emergencies,” said **MASON GASPER, DO**, director of the Stroke Center. “This program adds to the excellent care our stroke patients are getting,” he added.

To receive this recognition from the American Heart Association, The Stroke Center at Memorial achieved and sustained 85% or higher adherence to specific evidence-based guidelines, over a 24-month consecutive time period as measured in the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke program.

These measures include aggressive use of medications such as IV-tPA, antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol reducing drugs, and smoking cessation. All of these measures are aimed at reducing death and disability and improving the lives of stroke patients. ❖

Rhode Island Hospital Receives Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality Status

PROVIDENCE – In October, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) announced that Rhode Island Hospital achieved Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) leadership status for its commitment to providing the best practices in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) care. The HEI LGBT model is based on four foundational criteria: patient non-discrimination, equal visitation, employment non-discrimination and training in LGBT patient-centered care.

“We have worked tirelessly to assess our practices in treating members of the LGBT community here at Rhode Island Hospital,” says Laurie Sawyer, chair of Spectrum Lifespan’s LGBT employee resource group. “Our patient visitation policies and rights and responsibilities brochures that are handed out in registration areas and posted on the walls throughout the hospital have been changed to qualify for this status. Additionally, the HRC survey has given staff the opportunity to attend LGBT training webinars so they know how to provide the best care for all patients who come to Rhode Island Hospital.”

In 2010, Rhode Island Hospital began its pursuit of the HEI designation, though the hospital had begun implementing some of the employment non-discrimination practices before then.

“Lifespan has always been a leader in employment non-discrimination, allowing an employee’s same sex partner to be covered as a family member or a dependent on health insurance, before same-sex marriage was legal in Rhode Island,” says Nancy McMahan, vice president of human resources, The Miriam Hospital and Lifespan Physician Group.

The Equality Leader designation is designed to ensure LGBT patients know about and can protect their health care rights. It also allows patients to decide who is allowed visitation and who will make medical decisions in times of emergency. Finally, the HEI status gives LGBT patients assurance that they will receive the best care possible. ❖

Joint Commission Recognizes Newport Hospital

NEWPORT – Newport Hospital has been recognized by The Joint Commission as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures®. The hospital, the only one in Rhode Island to achieve this distinction, was recognized for its sustained excellence on accountability measures, or core measures, for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

“It’s exciting and rewarding to have achieved this important quality milestone for our ongoing efforts to improve clinical performance and the patient experience,” said Crista F. Durand, president of Newport Hospital. “Receiving this Joint Commission recognition reinforces Newport Hospital’s continued commitment to excellence and the high quality care we provide to our patients every day.”

The Top Performer program, which recognized 1,224 U.S. hospitals, acknowledges hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions, such as heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

Hospitals had to meet three performance criteria based on 2013 accountability measure data. These included:

Achieving cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures;

Achieving performance of 95 percent or above on each and every reported accountability measure where there were at least 30 denominator cases; and

Having at least one core measure set that had a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and (within that measure set) all applicable individual accountability measures had a performance rate of 95 percent or above. ❖