

N e w s R e l e a s e

www.pennstatehershey.org
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT:
Scott Gilbert: 717-531-1887
sgilbert1@hmc.psu.edu

MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ADVANCED STROKE CARE

HERSHEY, PA—Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center has once again received the Get with the Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The honor from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes the use of evidence-based treatment guidelines, best practice tools and resources in treating stroke patients.

This marks the third consecutive year the Medical Center has been recognized at the Gold Plus level, the highest under the Get with the Guidelines® program.

To receive the award, a hospital must achieve high levels of adherence to several indicators and benchmarks used to measure quality of care. These include aggressive use of certain medical and therapeutic treatments. The program also encourages healthcare providers to use the time soon after a stroke to teach patients how to manage their risk factors, therefore reducing the risk of a second stroke or heart attack.

“Our team of physicians and nurses provides community outreach to build stroke recognition as well as professional education to enhance the care of stroke patients,” said Kathy Morrison, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.R.N., the Medical Center’s stroke program manager. “We also provide follow-up care for the first year after discharge to ensure our patients are supported in their recovery.”

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is one of the leading causes of death and serious, long-term disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Founded in 1963 through a gift from The Milton S. Hershey Foundation, **Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center** is one of the leading teaching and research hospitals in the country. The 491-bed Medical Center is a provider of high-level, patient-focused medical care. The Medical Center campus also includes Penn State College of Medicine (Penn State's medical school), Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital—the region's only children's hospital. The Medical Center campus is part of Penn State Hershey Health System, which also includes the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, Penn State Hershey Rehabilitation Hospital, and other specialty facilities.