

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL'S STROKE CARE PROGRAM
AWARDED CERTIFICATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION**

ORANGE, CA-- St. Joseph Hospital earned the Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers on July 6, 2009. The hospital earned this distinction after the Joint Commission conducted an on-site review in May, 2009.

“St. Joseph Hospital demonstrated that its stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients,” says Jean E. Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q., executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

Each year over 700,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke, which is the nation's third leading cause of death. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds and someone dies of a stroke every 3.1 minutes. Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States, with about 4.7 million stroke survivors alive today.

“This award underscores our staff's commitment to helping stroke patients during the most critical time of their care,” says Katie Skelton, VP of Patient Care Services.

The Joint Commission's Certification of Distinction for Primary Stroke Centers recognizes centers that make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care. Achievement of certification signifies that the services we provide have the critical elements to achieve long-term success in improving

outcomes. It is the best signal to the community that the quality care we provide is effectively managed to meet the unique and specialized needs of stroke patients.

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