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## **SSM Neurosciences Institute at DePaul Earns Primary Stroke Center Certification**



(Bridgeton, Missouri) The SSM Neurosciences Institute at DePaul Health Center has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. Joint Commission standards are regarded as the most rigorous in the industry and DePaul is now one of only four stroke centers in the entire St. Louis region to have achieved this level of distinction in patient care.

“SSM DePaul Health Center demonstrated that its stroke care program follows the most stringent 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 about 700,000 people experience a stroke, which is the nation’s third leading cause of death. Stroke is also a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.

“For stroke sufferers, receiving the right care at the right time is the difference is critical. This certification recognizes our commitment to providing exceptional stroke care to our patients and our community,” says Nirav Vora, MD, medical director for the stroke center at SSM DePaul and assistant professor with Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

The Joint Commission’s Primary Stroke Center Certification is based on the recommendations for primary stroke centers published by the Brain Attack Coalition and the American Stroke Association’s statements/guidelines for stroke care. The Joint Commission launched the program—the nation’s first—in 2003. A list of programs certified by the Joint Commission is available at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

The SSM Neurosciences Institute has invested more than \$8.5 million at DePaul Health Center this year. This includes the purchase of state-of-the-art technology including a biplane angiography suite and O-ARM® imaging system to perform sophisticated interventional stroke treatment. DePaul also opened a new 20-bed dedicated neurosciences patient unit.

**About the SSM Neurosciences Institute:**

The SSM Neurosciences Institute treats more stroke patients than any other hospital system in St. Louis. The Institute comprises the neurology, neurosurgery, neuro-interventional and rehabilitation services of SSM DePaul Health Center, SSM St. Clare Health Center, SSM St. Joseph Hospital, SSM St. Joseph Hospital West, and SSM St. Mary's Health Center.

**About the Joint Commission:**

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. In addition, the Joint Commission provides certification of disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

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