
Confluence Health Stroke Program Recognized by Major Organizations with Multiple Awards

Wenatchee, WA: Confluence Health's Central Washington Hospital (now Confluence Health Hospital - Central Campus) was recently recognized by major organizations for their efforts within their stroke program.

In recognition for their commitment to providing high-quality stroke care, Confluence Health was awarded three different recognitions by the [American Heart Association \(AHA\)](#) and [American Stroke Association](#), a division of the AHA. As a part of organizations' Get with the Guidelines program, Confluence Health was presented with the Stroke Gold Plus Award for consistent adherence to AHA guidelines in dealing with strokes. In addition to this significant award, Confluence Health was further recognized with the Target: Stroke Elite Plus and Target: Type 2 Diabetes honor roll recognitions for efforts in these areas.

"This award reflects several years of intensive effort by the stroke manager Teri McIntyre in stroke education and quality improvements combined with all of the stroke team working behind the scenes and directly with the patients," remarked Dr. Scott Stroming, emergency department physician with Confluence Health. "Strong stroke team leadership, and physician and nursing buy-in, has been critical to the success of the program."

The fifth leading cause of death and one of the leading causes of disability across the United States, strokes are medical emergencies when blood vessels in the brain either burst or are blocked by clots. Detecting these medical events quickly, and promptly providing treatment from staff trained to handle this sort of care, is crucial to ensure positive patient outcomes.

"Get with the Guidelines and the AHA set the national standard for stroke care," continued Dr. Jennifer Wax, neurologist at Confluence Health. "I am pleased and proud of our team earning the Gold Plus Award, which recognizes our adherence to the most up-to-date and evidence-based guidelines and our commitment to providing the highest quality of care. Optimal stroke care is complex and requires collaboration between many teams in and outside the hospital all working together to effectively provide our patients with the best chance for stroke recovery and secondary prevention. This recognition also reflects the fantastic ongoing work from our stroke quality improvement group."

In addition to the recognition from the AHA, the stroke program at Confluence Health was further recognized by [DNV](#) with Primary Stroke Center Certification. Confluence Health Hospital - Central Campus is the only Primary Stroke Center in the region and one of only 15 certified stroke centers in Washington State.

"The primary stroke program at Confluence Health Hospital - Central Campus has continued to grow and work towards improving outcomes for patients experiencing a stroke in our region by working together as a team to optimize workflows while using best practices and evidence to continuously update and improve," explained Teri McIntyre, stroke program manager at Confluence Health. "In our work, we manage our patients from pre-hospital care through discharge to our stroke clinic and integrated practice unit, supporting patients for up to one year after discharge to improve their health and stroke risk factors. I'm so thankful for all the people in so many areas that come together to work as a team to improve patient safety and reduce readmissions."

About Confluence Health

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over

12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence Health is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

For More Information

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