



Tri-City Medical Center

We're Always Here for You.

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**Contact: Jeff Segall
Office: 760-940-5337
Cell Phone: 760-801-1240
or
Contact: Courtney Berlin
Office: 760-940-5757
Cell Phone: 760-802-0986**

Tri-City Medical Center Receives Re-Certification for Primary Stroke Center Designation

OCEANSIDE, CA– Tri-City Medical Center announced today that the hospital has earned re-certification of the Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. Hospitals with this title are determined by The Joint Commission to have the resources, organization and expertise to diagnose and manage patients with acute stroke. Tri-City first achieved this designation two years ago, and the re-certification confirms its ability to deliver excellence in stroke care.

The Joint Commission, formerly known as The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), was founded in 1951 to seek to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public by hospitals and other healthcare providers.

Stroke is the nation's third leading cause of death and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability. This Primary Stroke Center designation makes Tri-City Medical Center one of only eight hospitals in San Diego County that has met or exceeded the indicators set by The Joint Commission and American Stroke Association.

"A Primary Stroke Center designation is awarded to hospitals whose staff have the medical expertise, the resources and the processes in place to diagnose and manage patients with acute stroke," said Dr. Jack Schim, Medical Director of the Stroke Program at Tri-City Medical Center. "Tri-City Medical Center has been innovative in bringing creative, cutting-edge stroke care to this community for over 15 years."

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He continued, "This designation validates our team-work approach, the commitment of many departments involved in the program, and our outstanding performance as compared to national benchmarks."

Tri-City Medical Center was one of the first hospitals in the nation to enroll a patient under the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Strokes' tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) trial study in the early 1990's. To date, tPA is the only FDA-approved medication for acute stroke treatment. The Medical Center continues to be involved in various stroke studies, as the quest for treating and curing strokes continues.

Tri-City is currently the only hospital in all of North County to offer Interventional Radiology for the treatment of strokes.

"We use sophisticated imaging technologies to guide a tiny catheter into the artery where the stroke/blood clot is located," said Dr. Justin Gooding, Interventional Radiologist at Tri-City. "The clot can then either be removed with a device or dissolved using medications administered directly into the clot, oftentimes reversing the effects of the stroke and preventing permanent damage."

Recognizing the symptoms of stroke and getting immediate medical attention are paramount to having the best possible outcome. "Tri-City tells the community to 'think F.A.S.T.,'" says Debra Rough, Stroke Coordinator for Tri-City. "F.A.S.T. stands for Face, Arms, Speech and Time. If you suspect someone is experiencing a stroke, call 911 and get them to the nearest stroke center immediately. By receiving care within the first three hours of onset of symptoms, a patients' long-term prognosis is much better."

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