

GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL - STROKE TEAM CERTIFIED!

SAN JOSE, California - January 22, 2004 – Good Samaritan Hospital, a leading acute care and tertiary service hospital in Silicon Valley, recently announced that they are one of the first five hospitals in the United States to undergo the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Survey on Stroke Care and Code Brain Attack Program, with certification effective December 11, 2003.

“We are extremely pleased. The certification has given us the opportunity to demonstrate our care program for stroke patients, one that has set the benchmark for stroke care in the Silicon Valley,” said William Piche, CEO, Good Samaritan Hospital. “The excellent work of the Stroke Team and the bringing together of all the resources needed to provide this top notch program, has provided a much needed asset to the community. Good Samaritan Hospital commends the Stroke Awareness Foundation for their great efforts in educating the community about the seriousness of stroke, the subtle warning signs of stroke, and when stroke signs are noticed, awareness of where to receive the best opportunity for stroke care.”

“Stroke can be successfully treated,” said Chuck Hoffman, Stroke Awareness Foundation Chairman. “Certification of Good Sam acknowledges that the hospital is one of the best places to receive stroke treatment.”

The Seriousness of Stroke

Each year more than 750,000 people in the United States have a stroke, with over 170,000 of those patients dying. Half of the stroke deaths occur before the patient reaches the hospital. Strokes are the third leading cause of death in the U.S. and the number one cause of disability, according to the American Heart Association. Strokes result from disruption of blood flow to the brain from clots or bleeding. Stroke is a very common and often misunderstood condition and its early symptoms are often ignored. Education is key to identification of these signs and symptoms by persons and their family members. Effective treatment for stroke is early treatment.

A Personal Story about Stroke - Chuck Hoffman

Chuck Hoffman suffered from a stroke seven years ago. He was taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital Emergency Room, the hospital where his wife volunteers. “Within three minutes, I was surrounded by medical personal. I later found out that these people were the stroke team,” said Chuck Hoffman. “Dr. Harmeet Sachdev arrived within ten minutes and told my wife I was a candidate for a “clot busting” drug called tPA. By this time my entire left side was paralyzed. I was treated with tPA and within hours my feeling started to come back. By nightfall, I told Dr. Sachdev that I felt well enough to go home. He laughed, telling me that I was only the third person to receive tPA at Good Sam. I was also the first patient to fully recover, not suffering any disabilities, as a result of tPA treatment. Three days later I went home, fully recovered and have enjoyed a normal life.”

About the Stroke Program

“We’re very pleased to have created a nationally recognized program for our local Good Samaritan Hospital community,” said Dr. Harmeet Sachdev, Medical Director of the Stroke Care Program and the physician who treated Chuck Hoffman.

Good Samaritan Hospital has had an active Stroke Program for the past 7 years. They have treated over 2000 stroke patients in that time employing the latest in technology and science advances through the years. As of this writing, Good Samaritan Hospital has used a bioscience drug known as tPA to dissolve clots in the brain in over 80 patients.

“This drug, along with advances in brain imaging and instruments that perform delicate operations through the blood vessels in the brain, are cutting edge advances,” said Steven A. Matarelli, Ph.D., RN, Vice President, Clinical Practice Administration for Good Samaritan Hospital

About the Stroke Awareness Foundation

The Stroke Awareness Foundation was established in 2001 and organized by three people who have been successfully treated for stroke. In addition to Mr. Hoffman, a retired San Jose businessman, they are Pat Dando, Vice Mayor of the City of San Jose, and Charles J. Toeniskoetter, a San Jose commercial contractor and developer. Mr. Hoffman and Ms. Dando were treated at Good Samaritan in San Jose, and Toeniskoetter, who was stricken while skiing in the High Sierra, was treated at Sutter Roseville Medical Center.

The Foundation seeks to improve community awareness of stroke and associated treatment and health issues through research, education, screening, outreach and communications. The three immediate goals of the foundation are certification of stroke centers at hospitals in Santa Clara County, training paramedics and other emergency personnel to take stroke victims to these centers, and education of the public about stroke awareness.

About Good Samaritan Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital, the fourth largest hospital in Silicon Valley, opened in 1965 as a general acute care hospital. Today, the hospital provides both acute care and tertiary services, including cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatric care, behavioral health, and stroke treatment. In addition to its main campus in San Jose, Good Samaritan has a separate Mission Oaks campus in Los Gatos. Good Samaritan Hospital has been voted “Bay Area’s Best Place to Have a Baby” by *Bay Area Parent* magazine and the emergency department has been voted “2003 Emergency Department of the Year” by the California Emergency Physicians Medical Group.

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