



O'Connor Hospital

2105 Forest Avenue
San Jose, California 95128-1471
(408) 947-2500
(408) 947-2819 fax

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Kathy Asplund
Marketing Communications Manager
408-947-2626
kathyasplund@dochs.org

or

Elizabeth Nikels
VP-Communications
(408) 947-2905
elizabethnikels@dochs.org

O'Connor Hospital Stroke Care Program Awarded Joint Commission Certification

San Jose, CA – O'Connor Hospital has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ for stroke care. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has awarded O'Connor Hospital Primary Stroke Center Certification. O'Connor earned this distinction after the Joint Commission conducted an on-site review in October, 2005.

“We are proud that our program has been recognized for such a prestigious designation,” says Robert Curry, O'Connor President and CEO. “Our multi-disciplinary, early stroke intervention team uses the latest, safest and most effective treatments to make sure our community receives excellent care.”

“Certification is good for patients because it leads to more standardized approaches to care,” said Raul Guisado, MD, medical director of the O'Connor Hospital Stroke Center. The hospital's Stroke Team provides services around the clock and is led by Dr. Guisado - a neurologist, Karen de la Cuesta, RN, MS – Stroke Program Coordinator, and a team of three experienced neurologists who intervene quickly with treatments to produce favorable patient outcomes. Team members receive ongoing training in the diagnosis and treatment of all types of strokes.





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Each year, nearly 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.

“O’Connor Hospital demonstrated that its stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients,” says Charles A. Mowll, executive vice president, Development, Government, and External Relations, Joint Commission.

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 Joint Commission-certified programs is available at www.jcaho.org.

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 8,200 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





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programs and primary stroke centers. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, O'Connor Hospital is an acute care, not-for-profit community hospital that has served the South San Francisco Bay longer than any other hospital in the region. Key services include stroke care, cardiac care, cancer care, mother-baby care, sports medicine, arthritis care and joint replacement, vascular care, wound care and emergency services. O'Connor Hospital sponsors the Pediatric Center for Life, Parish Nursing programs, and the Stanford-affiliated Family Medicine Residency Program. HealthGrades awarded O'Connor Hospital the 2005 Distinguished Hospital Award for Patient Safety.

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