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200 Belle Terre Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777

(631) 474-6251 / (631) 476-5582 fax

Contact: Marilyn Fabbriante

Director, Public & External Affairs

St. Charles Hospital has been honored for implementing a high standard of stroke care by being awarded with the American Heart Association/Stroke Association Get with the Guidelines – Stroke Silver Performance Award.

The Silver Performance award is a demonstration of St. Charles's commitment to quality and its ability to work as a dedicated team to reach this milestone. In addition, the award reflects the hospital's ability to achieve and sustain adherence to specific evidence-based guidelines, as demonstrated through specific measures, over a 12-month consecutive time period.

Executive vice president/CAO Jim O'Connor said, "By virtue of receiving this award, it is evident that we continue to serve our patients with the highest level of stroke care available, right here in Port Jefferson. Being honored as giving excellent patient care is the best recognition a hospital can get."

In addition to the Silver Performance award, St. Charles Hospital has been recognized twice previously for its outstanding stroke program. In 2006 the New York State Department of Health designated St. Charles as the first community hospital in Suffolk County to be named a Primary Stroke Center and in 2008 the stroke program received the Gold Seal of Approval™ from the Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers.

According to the National Stroke Association a stroke occurs in the brain when a blood vessel is clotted and oxygen can't reach the brain. Brain cells begin to die at a rate of about one million each minute. This is the reason why time is so crucial in stroke.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost. The GWTG-Stroke Silver Performance Achievement Award addresses the important element of time," said Michael Sauter, MD, medical director, stroke program, St. Charles Hospital. "If a stroke victim can get to the emergency room and get treatment within three hours the chances of recovery are greatly increased. At St. Charles, we care about our patients. That's why we've made the commitment to turn treatment guidelines into lifelines."

With the Silver Award, St. Charles Hospital will be listed in the US News and World Report as one of the best hospitals in the nation.

Launched in 2000 to support and facilitate the improvement of the quality of care of patients, "Get with the Guidelines" is sponsored by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. The need for quality improvement programs is well established. Stroke remains the third leading cause of death and the first leading cause

of disability in the United States with approximately 700,000 people suffering a stroke each year according to the American Stroke Association.

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St. Charles Hospital is a 231-bed, not-for-profit hospital located in Port Jefferson, New York. The hospital's centers of excellence include orthopedics, obstetrics and rehabilitation. In addition, St. Charles offers services in pediatrics, including Long Island's only pediatric inpatient traumatic brain injury program, neonatology, radiology, palliative care, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, diabetes, community re-entry, general medical and surgical services, video-EEG monitoring and a nationally certified Sleep Disorders Center. St. Charles Hospital is a member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island. For more information on St. Charles Hospital, please call (631) 474-6797.