

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wooster Community Hospital Health System receives  
Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award**

*American Heart Association Award recognizes **Wooster Community Hospital Health System**  
commitment to quality stroke care.*

**WOOSTER, August 5, 2020** – **Wooster Community Hospital (WCH) Health System** has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital’s commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

WCH earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

“Wooster Community Hospital is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our stroke patients by implementing the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines-Stroke initiative,” said Karrie Boss, Clinical Nurse Specialist. “The tools and resources provided help us track and measure our success in meeting evidenced-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes.”

WCH additionally received the Association’s Target: Stroke<sup>SM</sup> Honor Roll award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke. And, received the Association’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet quality measures developed with more than 90 % of compliance for 12 consecutive months for the “Overall Diabetes Cardiovascular Initiative Composite Score.”

“We are pleased to recognize Wooster Community Hospital for their commitment to stroke care,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., national chairperson of the Quality Oversight Committee and Executive Vice Chair of Neurology, Director of Acute Stroke Services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

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“Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates.”

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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### **About Wooster Community Hospital**

Wooster Community Hospital (WCH) is a 172-bed, full-service and acute-care facility. Located in Wooster, the hub of Wayne County, Ohio. WCH is an award-winning hospital that offers a complete range of inpatient and outpatient services. WCH is the second-largest employer in Wayne County and was recently named a 5-Star Hospital for patient quality by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, received an ‘A’ from the [2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction; and,](#) was recognized as part of Newsweek’s annual list of World’s Best Hospitals for 2020. This prestigious award is presented by Newsweek. To learn more visit [www.woosterhospital.org](http://www.woosterhospital.org).

### **About Get With The Guidelines®**

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with tools and resources to increase adherence to the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 9 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit [heart.org/quality](http://heart.org/quality).