



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

CVPH Earns National Recognition for Efforts to Improve Stroke Treatment

Hospital presented with award from the American Heart Association

PLATTSBURGH, NY (1/27/2022) – The University of Vermont Health Network-Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH) has received the American Heart Association’s Silver Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Achievement Award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

Stroke is the fifth highest cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. 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. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and speeding recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke was developed to assist healthcare professionals by providing the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines for treating stroke patients.

“CVPH is honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our dedication to helping our patients have the best possible chance of survival after a stroke,” Colleen Bell, Clinical Quality Manager, said. “Get With The Guidelines-Stroke makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis to improve outcomes for stroke patients.”

Each year, program participants are evaluated for the award recognition by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, participants also provide education to patients to help them manage their health and rehabilitation once at home.

The available evidence in the medical literature suggests that standardized protocols that utilize a multidisciplinary team to evaluate, assess, and treat stroke patients can lead to statistically significant improvements in stroke metrics and outcomes. Multidisciplinary team members include physicians, advanced practice providers, radiologists, stroke program coordinators, nurses, pharmacists, and CT technologists. Sarah Baskind, Neurology Nurse Practitioner shared, “Our team-based approach to care at CVPH has led to improvement in several of our stroke metrics. The improved metrics mean improved standards of care for patients.”

“We are pleased to recognize CVPH for its commitment to stroke care,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., national member and past chairperson of the Quality Oversight Committee for the American Heart Association and Neurologist, Vice President of Telehealth for Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. “Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get WithThe Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates.”

Additionally, CVPH 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 percent of compliance for 12 consecutive months for the “Overall Diabetes Cardiovascular Initiative Composite Score.”

“Our greatest reward is caring for our patients,” Dr. Michael McMahon, Stroke Medical Director, explained. “That’s why we’ve made a commitment to turn treatment guidelines into lifelines. It is incredibly fulfilling to see the lives we’re impacting.”

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About Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital

The University of Vermont Health Network - Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH) is a private, not-for profit hospital in Plattsburgh, NY. Established in 1967 with the merger of Champlain Valley and Physicians Hospitals, CVPH joined Fletcher Allen Partners in 2012, which in 2014 became The University of Vermont Health Network. Together with its partner hospitals, the UVM Medical Group and a home health agency, CVPH provides high quality, cost effective care, close to home. Services include an award winning cardiac services program, accredited cancer center, freestanding ambulatory surgery center, comprehensive rehabilitation services and a 24 hour physician-staffed Emergency Department. Governed by a 15-member Board of Directors, CVPH is accredited by the Joint Commission and licensed by New York State and Medicare/Medicaid Approved. Learn more at UVMHealth.org/CVPH or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.



About The University of Vermont Health Network

The University of Vermont Health Network is an integrated system serving the residents of Vermont and northern New York with a shared mission: working together, we improve people's lives. The partners are:

- [The University of Vermont Medical Center](#)
- The University of Vermont Health Network Medical Group
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Alice Hyde Medical Center](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Central Vermont Medical Center](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Elizabethtown Community Hospital](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Porter Medical Center](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Home Health & Hospice](#)

Our 4,000 health care professionals are driven to provide high-quality, cost-efficient care as close to home as possible. Strengthened by our academic connection to the University of Vermont, each of our affiliates remains committed to its local community by providing compassionate, personal care shaped by the latest medical advances and delivered by highly skilled experts.

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 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.