



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CHANDLER REGIONAL AND MERCY GILBERT MEDICAL CENTERS’ STROKE PROGRAMS RECEIVE GET WITH THE GUIDELINES®- STROKE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

*Awards demonstrate the hospitals’ commitment to providing quality care  
for stroke patients and their families*

**CHANDLER and GILBERT, Ariz.** (May 15, 2012) – Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers, Dignity Health™ Members, have received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s [Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Achievement Awards](#). The awards recognize the medical centers’ commitment to and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted protocols and recommendations.

To receive the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award, the medical centers maintained 12 continuous months at or above 85 percent compliance with the requirements of the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke program. These include consistent application of evidence-based interventions and therapies to ensure the delivery of high quality, compassionate care to patients and families affected by stroke. This 12 month evaluation period is the second level in an ongoing self-evaluation by the hospitals to continually reach the 85 percent compliance level needed to sustain this award.

In addition to earning the prestigious Silver Quality Achievement Award, Mercy Gilbert achieved the “plus” designation. This signifies that they achieved 75 percent or better compliance with six of the 10 Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Measures during that same time period.

“The time is right for our hospitals to be focused on continually improving the quality of stroke care by implementing Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke. The number of acute ischemic stroke patients eligible for treatment is expected to grow over the next decade due to increasing stroke

incidence and a larger aging population,” said Jonathan Hodgson, D.O., medical director for Mercy Gilbert’s Stroke Center.

Chandler Regional has also been recognized as a recipient of the association’s Target: Stroke Honor Roll for improving stroke care. The Honor Roll is reserved for hospitals that achieve excellence in delivery of tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the urgent treatment of ischemic stroke, for eligible patients within 60 minutes of arriving at the hospital.

“If given intravenously within the first three hours after the start of stroke symptoms, tPA has been shown to significantly reverse the effects of stroke and reduce permanent disability,” said Hemant Pandey, M.D., medical director for Chandler Regional’s Stroke Center.

“With a stroke, time lost is brain lost,” adds Tim Bricker, president and CEO of Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers. “This recognition demonstrates that our staffs are committed to providing care that has been shown in the scientific literature to quickly and efficiently treat stroke patients with evidence-based protocols.”

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is one of the leading causes of death and serious, long-term disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

As part of the Dignity Health system of hospitals, Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert have access to one of the nation’s leading neurological centers, Barrow Neurological Institute (Barrow), giving patients seamless, priority access to consultation and treatment by world-renowned neurologists. Since 1962, the professionals at Barrow have been dedicated to providing compassionate patient care and finding treatments, and possibly cures, for potentially devastating diseases such as stroke.

For more information, please visit [ChandlerRegional.org](http://ChandlerRegional.org) or [MercyGilbert.org](http://MercyGilbert.org).

### **About Chandler Regional Medical Center**

Chandler Regional Medical Center is located at 1955 West Frye Road (corner of Dobson and Frye Roads) in Chandler. Chandler Regional is a 243-bed, acute-care, not-for-profit provider of emergency care, family birth services, comprehensive stroke services, gastroenterology, cardiovascular services, wound healing and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, cancer treatment, neurosciences, orthopedics, general surgery and diagnostic services. For more information, please visit [ChandlerRegional.org](http://ChandlerRegional.org) or call (480) 728-3000. Chandler Regional is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For information on doctor referrals, community classes or support groups, please contact ResourceLink at (480) 728-5414.

### **About Mercy Gilbert Medical Center**

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is located at the intersection of Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 (south of Pecos Road and east of Val Vista Drive). Mercy Gilbert is a 212-bed, acute-care, not-

for-profit provider of emergency care, family birth services, diabetes management, comprehensive stroke services, gastroenterology, sleep studies, neurosciences, orthopedics, general surgery and diagnostic services. For more information, please visit [MercyGilbert.org](http://MercyGilbert.org) or call (480) 728-8000. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact ResourceLink at (480) 728-5414.

### **About Dignity Health**

Dignity Health, headquartered in San Francisco, Calif., provides integrated, patient and family centered care. It is the fifth largest health system in the country with 10,000 physicians and 55,000 employees across Arizona, California, and Nevada. Through its network of more than 150 ancillary care sites and 40 acute care hospitals, Dignity Health is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health care services with special attention to the poor and underserved. In 2011, Dignity Health provided \$1.4 billion in charity care, community benefit and unreimbursed patient care. For more information, please visit our website at [DignityHealth.org](http://DignityHealth.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 empowers healthcare teams to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by helping hospitals follow evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. For more information, visit [heart.org/quality](http://heart.org/quality).