



**Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Receives  
Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus and Heart Failure Gold Plus  
Quality Achievement Awards**

*American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's commitment to quality stroke care and high standard of heart failure care*

POMONA, Calif. (May 10, 2016) — Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) recently received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke<sup>SM</sup> Honor Roll Elite. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to providing the most appropriate stroke treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

To qualify for the Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite, 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](#). If given intravenously in the first three hours after the start of stroke symptoms, tPA has been shown to significantly reduce the effects of stroke and lessen the chance of permanent disability. Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center 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 quality measures are designed to help hospital teams follow the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

"A stroke patient loses 1.9 million neurons each minute stroke treatment is delayed. This recognition further demonstrates our commitment to delivering advanced stroke treatments to patients quickly and safely," said Deborah Keasler, RN, Director of the Stead Heart and Vascular Center. "We continue to strive for excellence in the acute treatment of stroke patients. The recognition from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke further reinforces our team's hard work."

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has also met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department.

“The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center for its commitment to stroke care,” said Paul Heidenreich, M.D., M.S., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee and Professor of Medicine at Stanford University. “Research has shown there are benefits to patients who are treated at hospitals that have adopted the Get With The Guidelines program.”

Financial analyst and Chino Hills resident Gary Brandt is aware that every second counts when a stroke strikes.

“My wife came in and asked why I wasn’t getting ready for work. I tried to get up but couldn’t. I tried to talk to her and my speech was slurred. She recognized the signs of stroke right away and called 9-1-1.”

Tests revealed that a large clot was blocking blood flow to the entire right side of Gary’s brain.

“The chance of medicine alone opening up his clot was about 10 percent,” said Sophia Janjua, MD, PVHMC’s interventional neurologist.

Recognizing this, the team whisked Gary to the Hospital’s state-of-the-art Interventional Radiology Lab, where Dr. Janjua extracted the clot using a life-saving procedure, thrombectomy, not offered at other hospitals in the region. Without this care, Gary would likely have been completely paralyzed on the entire left side of his face and body.

“The doctors, nurses, and therapists were all top-notch. I thank God for Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and its doctors. I hope that I never have another stroke, but if I do, it’s where I want to go,” said Brandt.

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, someone dies of a stroke every four minutes, and nearly 800,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Additionally, PVHMC is pleased to announce that it has earned the Get With The Guidelines® - Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. This award recognizes PVHMC’s commitment and success in implementing a high standard of heart failure care

by ensuring that their heart failure patients receive treatment that meets nationally accepted, evidence-based standards and recommendations.

***About Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center:***

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is a 437-bed, acute care, nationally accredited not-for-profit medical center serving eastern Los Angeles and western San Bernardino counties. In 2015, PVHMC achieved The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for advanced certification in inpatient diabetes care, palliative care, sepsis and total joint replacement. In 2014, PVHMC was recognized by Healthgrades as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery, Coronary Interventions and Cardiac Care, and was announced as one of only four hospitals in California to achieve Excellence Awards in Cardiac Surgery, Coronary Interventions and Cardiac Care and three Top 100 designations listed previously. PVHMC is also a recipient of the prestigious Baby-Friendly designation.. For more information, visit: [www.pvhmc.org](http://www.pvhmc.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 6 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org).

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