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The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize this hospital for achieving at least two years of 85% or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines® program quality indicators to improve quality of patient care and outcomes.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside receives
The American Heart Association's
Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award**

Jacksonville, FL (Dec. 20, 2013) – St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside has once again received the Get With The Guidelines®–Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. The award recognizes St. Vincent's Riverside's ongoing commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care by ensuring stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted guidelines.

“This award affirms our commitment to implementing the highest standards in stroke care, said Cynthia Hailey-Letterman, System Neuroscience Coordinator for St. Vincent's HealthCare. “I am proud of our entire team for making safety and quality a priority for the betterment of our patients and their families.”

As part of the program, St. Vincent's patients are provided aggressive risk-reduction therapies including the use of medications such as tPA, antithrombotics and anticoagulation therapy. They are also given cholesterol reducing drugs and smoking cessation counseling with the overall goal of preventing death and disability and improving the lives of stroke patients.

Hospitals must adhere to these measures at a set level for a designated period of time to be eligible for this achievement award. St. Vincent's Riverside is among 628 hospitals receiving a Get With the Guidelines–Stroke Gold Quality Achievement award this year.

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.

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About St. Vincent's HealthCare

St. Vincent's HealthCare includes: St. Vincent's Riverside, St. Vincent's Clay County, St. Vincent's Southside, St. Catherine Labouré Manor, St. Vincent's Primary Care, Consolidated Laboratories, St. Vincent's Ambulance Service, Seton Pharmacies and Consolidated Pharmacies. St. Vincent's Medical Center was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1916 to provide health services to the sick and the poor of North Florida. St. Luke's Hospital, now St. Vincent's Southside was founded in 1873 by three women who saw the need for medical care in the community. It stands as Florida's oldest private hospital. St. Vincent's HealthCare is a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system with more than 100,000 associates serving in 70 general acute care hospitals.

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.