

**UAMS News Bureau**

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**News Release**  
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**UAMS Stroke Program Receives Two Awards  
for Excellence of Care**

LITTLE ROCK – Excellence in treating stroke patients has earned the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Stroke Program two national awards.

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association honored UAMS with the Get with the Guidelines Target: Stroke Honor Roll and Gold Plus Quality Achievement awards in June. The awards recognize 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.

The Target: Stroke Honor Roll recognition acknowledges the program’s compliance with standards for quick and timely treatment of stroke. The Gold Plus status recognizes the program’s continued high performance by those measures for two or more consecutive years after receiving a Gold or Silver award. UAMS has maintained the Gold Plus status for six consecutive years.

“Our staff has worked very hard for many years first to achieve and then to continue to receive this recognition,” said Matthew Mitchell, M.N.Sc., R.N., director of the Stroke Program. “We want our patients to have the very best outcomes, and this recognition speaks to our efforts to follow the guidelines and standards of practice that ensure the best results for them.”

In 2018, UAMS Medical Center became the first and only health care provider in Arkansas to be certified as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission. The Joint Commission is an independent, nonprofit organization that evaluates and accredits more than 20,000 health care organizations in the United States.

According to The Joint Commission, the certification is the most demanding accreditation and is designed for those hospitals that have the specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the fifth leading 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.

UAMS is the state's only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; hospital; a main campus in Little Rock; a Northwest Arkansas regional campus in Fayetteville; a statewide network of regional campuses; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Translational Research Institute and Institute for Digital Health & Innovation. UAMS includes UAMS Health, a statewide health system that encompasses all of UAMS' clinical enterprise including its hospital, regional clinics and clinics it operates or staffs in cooperation with other providers. UAMS is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. *U.S. News & World Report* named UAMS Medical Center the state's Best Hospital; ranked its ear, nose and throat program among the top 50 nationwide; and named six areas as high performing — cancer, colon cancer surgery, heart failure, hip replacement, knee replacement and lung cancer surgery. UAMS has 2,727 students, 870 medical residents and five dental residents. It is the state's largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including 1,200 physicians who provide care to patients at UAMS, its regional campuses, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the VA Medical Center and Baptist Health. Visit [www.uams.edu](http://www.uams.edu) or [www.uamshealth.com](http://www.uamshealth.com). Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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