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Media Advisory

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Wuesthoff Health System Stroke Care Program Awarded Recertification from the Joint Commission

Brevard County, FL (August 3, 2010) For the fourth year in a row, Wuesthoff Health System has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from the Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. Wuesthoff earned this distinction after the Joint Commission conducted an unannounced on-site review this past summer.

“Wuesthoff Health System demonstrated that their stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines which can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients,” said Jean, E. Range, MS, RN, CPHQ, executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

Stroke is the nation’s third leading cause of death with more than 700,000 people experiencing either first time, or recurrent strokes each year. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds in the United States and deaths caused by strokes every 3.1 minutes. Stroke is the leading cause of serious, long-term disability in this country with nearly 4.7 million stroke survivors alive today.

“We are proud to again achieve the distinction,” said Emil Miller, Wuesthoff Health System President/CEO. “Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center Certification recognizes Wuesthoff’s commitment to providing outstanding care to our patients and our community.

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification is based on the recommendations for primary stroke centers published by the Brain Attack Coalition and the American Stroke Association's statement/guidelines for stroke care. The Joint Commission launched this program – the nation's first – in 2003.

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