



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Wuesthoff Health System Recognized By the American Heart Association for Implementing Quality Heart Disease and Stroke Care**

**BREVARD COUNTY, FL** - Wuesthoff Health System has been recognized for achievement in using evidence-based guidelines to provide the best possible care to patients through The American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association's *Get With The Guidelines*<sup>®</sup> program.

Wuesthoff, along with 814 other hospitals across the country were featured in a special advertisement in the "America's Best Hospitals" issue of *US News & World Report* to commemorate their receipt of 'Get With The Guidelines' Coronary Artery Disease Gold, and Stroke Silver Plus Performance Achievement Awards. A total of 961 awards were given to hospitals for achievement in coronary artery disease, stroke and/or heart failure treatment.

Hospitals recognized in each category achieve at least 85 percent compliance to 'Get With The Guidelines' measures. Those achieving 85 percent compliance for 24 consecutive months receive the Gold Performance Achievement Award, with the Silver Performance Achievement Award going to those with 85 percent compliance for 12 consecutive months. Special recognition is also given for hospitals achieving 85 percent compliance in two or all three categories and/or for being in 75 percent compliance with heart failure and/or stroke measures.

'Get With The Guidelines' is a hospital-based quality-improvement program designed to ensure that hospitals consistently care for cardiac and stroke patients following the most up-to-date guidelines and recommendations. The program addresses coronary artery disease, heart failure and stroke with more than 1,400 hospitals participating in the program.

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“The American Heart Association is pleased to recognize its top ‘*Get With The Guidelines*’ participants,” said Lee Schwamm, M.D., national chairman of the ‘*Get With The Guidelines*’ steering committee, associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and Vice Chairman of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

“Healthcare providers who use this protocol are armed with the latest evidence-based guidelines and immediate access to clinical decision support, using a set of tools that have been shown to improve delivery of evidence-based care. The goal of this initiative is to improve the quality of life and help reduce deaths and disability among patients with heart disease and stroke.”

“Published scientific studies are providing us with more and more evidence that ‘*Get With The Guidelines*’ works. Patients are getting the right care they need when they need it, resulting in improved survival,” added Schwamm.

“We are proud that the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have chosen the ‘America’s Best Hospitals’ issue of *US News & World Report* to recognize our achievements,” said Lisa Crites, Wuesthoff Health System Associate Director of Media Strategy. “*Get With The Guidelines* gives our clinicians the tools and reports they need to effectively treat our coronary heart disease, heart failure and stroke patients.”

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### **About Get With The Guidelines**

Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup> 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).