

JMHCC can now care for stroke patients

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) in Elgin has been designated as an Acute Stroke Ready Hospital, which means it has the proper resources to diagnose, stabilize and provide definitive care to acute stroke patients. JMHCC is now part of a care system in which JMHCC will immediately diagnose and treat symptoms, then transfer the patient for further care. Previously, JMHCC did not have the equipment, medication or designation to treat stroke patients.

WHAT IT MEANS

JMHCC now has the equipment to diagnose a stroke and medication to reverse the effects of a stroke.

Hospitals with this designation have a CT scanner, and the ability to perform the CT and have the results read within 45 minutes of a test.

JMHCC has also acquired a blood analyzer in its lab to assist in completing the necessary blood tests.

Once a stroke is diagnosed, JMHCC now has the ability to administer an intravenous tissue plasminogen activator, or “tPA.” With certain types of strokes, tPA can aid in reversing the effects of a stroke if administered within an hour.

Acute Stroke Ready Hospital designation is granted by the N.D. Department of Health upon application by the facility. Facilities which plan to care for acute stroke patients must be designated.

EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT ARE KEY!

Be aware of stroke symptoms, and call 9-1-1 immediately. Stroke symptoms can be reversed in certain instances if treatment is given immediately.

F.A.S.T. is an easy way to remember the sudden signs of a stroke. F.A.S.T. is:

- Face drooping.
- Arm weakness.
- Speech difficulty
- Time to call 9-1-1

Beyond F.A.S.T., other symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm, leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking; sudden trouble seeing; sudden dizziness or loss of coordination; and sudden severe headache with no known cause.

“Now that JMHCC has the proper equipment to diagnose a stroke, and the medication on hand to treat a stroke, we can better care for stroke patients within that timely window of treatment,” says JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller. “This is just one more step we’re taking to offer better patient care close to home.”