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Sharon Hospital Announces Coordinator for Stroke Program

Sharon, CT – Sharon Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Pam Provisor, BSN, CCRN, CEN, as Stroke Coordinator. Pam has been a nurse at Sharon Hospital for the past 24 years with the last 12 years dedicated to the Intensive Care Unit /Emergency Department & the past 5 years strictly in the ED. In addition, she is very committed to the education of staff at Sharon Hospital and is an instructor for Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Life Support, Trauma Nurse Core Course & Pediatric Life Support.

In this new role, Pam will work with Dr. Gene Chin, Medical Director, Emergency Department & Pam George, Director Emergency Department together with the administrative team to coordinate & implement a stroke program which will meet the requirements for designation as a stroke center. Pam will be responsible for the stroke program at Sharon Hospital; an ongoing program with continual education of physicians, nurses, EMS personnel & the community.

“The goal for medical personnel is to maintain a level of expertise such that stroke symptoms are identified quickly & appropriate treatment is implemented rapidly as recommended by the

American Stroke Association in collaboration with the American Heart Association. Community education is vital in identifying early stroke symptoms & decreasing the sequelae of untreated strokes” according to Pam Provisor.

“In my role as stroke coordinator, I’ll assist the medical director & neurologist in development & revision of policies & procedures according to American Stroke guidelines” states Provisor. Time is of the essence in stroke care & this is where Sharon Hospital fits into the whole continuum of stroke care. “We have the expertise & knowledge to identify early symptoms, provide the initial screening, (including early CT) & administer TPA (thrombolytics -“clot buster”) for stroke victims” according to Provisor. “What is essential is that this treatment is provided within 3 hours of onset of symptoms & we can do that here at Sharon Hospital. Our short wait times in the emergency department & immediate triage of patients exhibiting any symptoms, are what enable the staff at Sharon Hospital to provide TPA to our stroke patients according to the national standard – which is 60 minutes from ‘door to drug’” according to Provisor.

The implementation of a stroke program is a key initiative at Sharon Hospital. Timely care is critical. It is important for people to know that when they are experiencing symptoms of a stroke, they should NOT wait! Call 9-1-1 & get to the nearest hospital.

“The team at Sharon Hospital, headed by Pam Provisor, Stroke Coordinator, is working in conjunction with Hartford Hospital to evaluate best practices & implement them here in Sharon as part of our stroke program initiative,” stated Charlie Therrien, President & CEO, Sharon Hospital.

According to the American Stroke Association, stroke is a medical emergency. Know the warning signs of stroke and teach them to others. Every second counts:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience symptoms! Time lost is brain lost!

This year, more than 100,000 U.S. women under 65 will have a stroke. Stroke is not a geriatric disease. And it's not confined to elderly overweight smokers who have high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

For more information about the risks & warning signs associated with stroke, visit www.strokeassociation.org.

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