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Sharon Hospital Announces Primary Stroke Center Designation

Sharon, CT – Sharon Hospital is pleased to announce that its Stroke Program has been approved and designated as a Primary Stroke Center (PSC) by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. Sharon Hospital underwent a comprehensive application process and a thorough on-site review from the CT DPH in order to become an approved PSC. This designation recognizes Sharon Hospital’s ability to care for stroke patients at the highest level for a community hospital.

“Our Stroke Program is a model of care for patients presenting with stroke or TIA symptoms based on State and National Standards of Care” stated Charlie Therrien, President and CEO, Sharon Hospital. “Sharon Hospital’s ability to provide this service is dependent upon individuals recognizing the signs of stroke and coming to the Emergency Department quickly” said Therrien. “We would like to thank and congratulate Pam Provisor, Stroke Coordinator, Co-Medical Directors Gene Chin, MD and Jack Finkelstein, MD, members of the Stroke Task Force and Emergency Physicians for their dedication to achieving such an impressive goal in such a short timeframe. The multidisciplinary team worked together for six month as they formalized Sharon Hospital’s Stroke Program. We are extremely pleased to be able to provide a Primary Stroke Center for our community” he added.

If there is one thing to remember about stroke, it’s this: MINUTES MATTER! From the time stroke symptoms begin, the clock is ticking. As minutes pass, brain cells die. However, acting fast can make a difference. If a drug called tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) can be given quickly enough,

it may reduce the effects of stroke and the risk of permanent disability. tPA works by dissolving clots and restoring blood flow to the brain. To be most effective, it must be given within a three hour window of the onset of symptoms.

“Timely care is critical for stroke. Call 9-1-1” states Gene Chin, MD, Co-Medical Director of Sharon Hospital’s Stroke Center. “Individuals should utilize the EMS system so that EMS can initiate the ‘pathway of treatment’ which includes identification of symptoms of stroke and early communication to the ED. Stroke care begins in the field. Sharon Hospital’s Stroke Center is ready to care for patients immediately. And, in conjunction with Hartford Hospital, our team of physicians and nurses have access to an additional level of expertise and resources” according to Dr. Chin.

“Educating the community is our next step,” states Jill Groody Musselman, Director Marketing and Public Relations at Sharon Hospital. “It is vital that we educate the community at a grass roots level. We have begun speaking with community organizations. Our goal is to present the risk factors and warning signs in a way that the public will remember. We want them to be aware of what they should do and who they should call in the event that they or a loved one experience symptoms of stroke” she added.

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

- 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 any of these symptoms! Time lost is brain lost!

For more information about the risks & warning signs associated with stroke, visit

www.strokeassociation.org or call Sharon Hospital’s Emergency Department at 860.364.4111.

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