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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## **Sharon Hospital Receives Repeat Primary Stroke Center Designation**

**Sharon, CT** – Sharon Hospital is pleased to announce that its Primary Stroke Center has once again been designated as an approved Primary Stroke Center (PSC) by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. This designation recognizes Sharon Hospital’s ability to care for stroke patients at the highest level for a community hospital.

“The model of care for our Primary Stroke Center is based on State and National Standards of Care is a model of care for patients presenting with stroke or TIA symptoms” stated Kimberly A. Lumia, President and CEO, Sharon Hospital. “Sharon Hospital’s continued ability to offer this service is dependent upon individuals recognizing the signs of stroke and coming to the Emergency Department quickly” said Mrs. Lumia. “We would like to extend our appreciation and congratulations to the members of our Stroke Task Force team, our Stroke Coordinator, Melissa Braislin, SLP, Co-Medical Directors Gene Chin, MD and Jack Finkelstein, MD, and our Emergency Physicians for their dedication to Sharon Hospital’s Primary Stroke Center and to our patients. We are pleased to continue to be able to provide this service to our community” she added.

The common theme in Sharon Hospital’s continual community education is 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 4.5 hour window of the onset of symptoms.

“We continue to provide our community with timely care which is critical for stroke.” states Gene Chin, MD, Co-Medical Director of Sharon Hospital’s Stroke Center. “If you, or loved one experience stroke symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately. I urge individuals to utilize the EMS system so that they can initiate the ‘pathway of treatment’. This includes identification of stroke symptoms and communication with our Emergency Department. Remember with EMS, stroke care begins in the field. Sharon Hospital’s Primary Stroke Center is ready to care for patients immediately” according to Dr. Chin.

“Continuing to educate our community is vital,” states Jill Groody Musselman, Director Marketing and Public Relations at Sharon Hospital. “It is critical to reach and educate the community at the grass roots level. We want to emphasize what a patient should do and who to call in the event 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](http://www.strokeassociation.org) or call Sharon Hospital’s Emergency Department at 860.364.4111.

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