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**Elmhurst Hospital Center Celebrates Prestigious Award
from the American Heart Association**

EHC Executive Director and Stroke Team accept “Get With the Guidelines” Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award from AHA

(Elmhurst, NY--October 15, 2010): On Wednesday, October 6, 2010, Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) Executive Director Chris Constantino and the EHC Stroke Team accepted the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award. The award, presented by AHA representative Diana Barrett, recognizes EHC’s success in implementing excellent care for stroke patients.

To receive the award, Elmhurst Hospital Center achieved of 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Performance Achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month intervals and achieved 75 percent or higher compliance with six of 10 Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality Measures, which are reporting initiatives to measure quality of care. These measures include aggressive use of medications, such as tPA, antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol reducing drugs and smoking cessation, all aimed at reducing death and disability and improving the lives of stroke patients.

“With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the Get With The Guidelines–Stroke Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award demonstrates Elmhurst Hospital Center’s commitment to being one of the top hospitals in the country for providing aggressive, proven stroke care,” said Chris Constantino, EHC’s Executive Director. “We will continue with our focus on providing care that has been shown in the scientific literature to quickly and efficiently treat stroke patients with evidence-based protocols.”

The expertise and professionalism of the EHC Stroke Team made all the difference for Theresa Zara, an 85 year-old stroke victim who was treated at Elmhurst Hospital Center earlier this year. “My mother was brought in to Elmhurst Hospital Center with a severe, large CVA stroke that affected her left side,” said Larry Wilks, Ms. Zara’s son. “I am extremely grateful to all the doctors and nurses at Elmhurst that helped my mother through her health crisis. The excellent medical care they provided allowed my mother the chance to continue

her journey through life, and the kindness and courtesy shown by the staff at Elmhurst will never be forgotten.”

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every three minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year. For more information on Get With The Guidelines, visit www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines.

About Elmhurst Hospital

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) is the major tertiary care provider in the borough of Queens. The hospital is comprised of 545 beds and is a Level I Trauma Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station and a 911 Receiving Hospital. It is the premiere health care organization for key areas such as Surgery, Cardiology, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Medicine, Renal and Mental Health Services.

Elmhurst Hospital Center serves an area of approximately one million people. This community is recognized as the most ethnically diverse in the world. Last year, EHC received 693,600 ambulatory care visits as well as receiving 130,042 Emergency Room visits making it one of the busiest ERs in New York City. Over 4,200 babies were delivered at Elmhurst last year alone-the most in this region. Ensuring accessible health care is our priority.



American Heart Association representative Diana Barrett presents Elmhurst Hospital Center Executive Director Chris Constantino with the AHA's **Get with the Guidelines Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award**.



Theresa Zara (seated), who suffered a stroke and was treated at Elmhurst Hospital Center, reunited with the EHC Nursing team that helped care for her during her illness.