



GENERATIONS + NORTHERN MANHATTAN HEALTH NETWORK

PRESS RELEASE

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**LINCOLN HOSPITAL RECEIVES “GOLD PLUS QUALITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD”
FROM AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION FOR IMPLEMENTING STROKE CARE AIMED AT
REDUCING DISABILITY AND IMPROVING THE LIVES OF STROKE PATIENTS**

Only Major Stroke Center in The Bronx to Hold “Gold Plus” Distinction

Bronx, New York - Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center received two significant recognitions from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s *Get With the Guidelines*® (GWTG) Program. The Gold Plus Quality Achievement award acknowledges Lincoln Hospital’s commitment and successful implementation of higher standards of stroke care, aimed at reducing disability and improving the lives of stroke patients.

The GWTG **Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award** is the highest level of recognition that allows hospitals to be acknowledged for their compliance with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association quality measures and sustained adherence to specific evidence-based guidelines over a period of two consecutive years.

In addition, Lincoln Hospital is included in the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s “**Honor Roll**” for timely administration of clot-busting therapy (thrombolytics) within 60 minutes of patient’s arrival to the hospital. A thrombolytic, or clot-busting agent, when administered in a timely manner is the best available treatment for ischemic stroke. If given intravenously in the first three hours after the start of stroke symptoms, it has been shown to significantly reverse the effects of stroke and reduce permanent disability.

According to the American Heart Association, the number of acute ischemic stroke patients eligible for treatment is expected to grow over the next decade due to increasing stroke incidence and a large aging population. Other statistics indicate that stroke is one of the leading causes of death and serious, long-term disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

“As a New York State Designated Stroke Center, Lincoln Hospital continues to achieve a high level of quality performance, implementing life-prolonging treatments, and ensuring that the

care they provide to stroke patients is aligned with the latest scientific guidelines.” said Melissa Schori, Lincoln’s Chief Medical Officer. “We are very proud that Lincoln is the first major Stroke Center in The Bronx to receive Gold Plus status.”

“This is a remarkable accomplishment, considering that Lincoln has one of the busiest Emergency Rooms in the country and serves a large inner-city minority population that is particularly at increased risk for strokes,” said Raghu Loganathan, MD, FCCP, Lincoln’s Director of Medical Intensive Care Unit and Stroke Center. “I am very proud of the multidisciplinary team that is dedicated to making our Stroke Center among the best in the country.”

“A Gold Plus award is an extremely important achievement for the South Bronx community, which continues to suffer disproportionately from cardiovascular diseases,” said Iris R. Jimenez-Hernandez, Network Senior Vice President and Lincoln Hospital’s Executive Director. “This recognition also demonstrates the Stroke Center’s commitment to quality and dedication to providing our patients with care that is appropriate and based on the latest clinical guidelines.”

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, located at 234 E. 149th Street in the Bronx, is a 347-bed, acute care level 1 trauma center with the busiest single site emergency department in the region. The hospital emphasizes primary care and specialty medicine and uses the latest advances in medical science. Lincoln Hospital is a member of the Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network, a healthcare conglomerate which is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), is a \$6.3 billion integrated healthcare delivery system and the largest municipal healthcare organization in the country. HHC serves 1.3 million New Yorkers every year and nearly 450,000 who are uninsured. HHC provides medical, mental health and substance abuse services through its 11 acute care hospitals, four skilled nursing facilities, six large diagnostic and treatment centers and more than 80 community based clinics. HHC Health and Home Care also provide health services at home for New Yorkers. To learn more about HHC, visit www.nyc.gov/hhc.

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