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ACHC Benchmarking Report Reveals Continued Impact of COVID-19 on Stroke Programs

Data Indicate a Direct Connection Between COVID-19 and Stroke Patients

CARY, N.C. (July 21, 2022) – Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc., (ACHC) has released “Benchmarking Performance, 2021 Review of ACHC-certified Stroke Centers.” The report justifies how ACHC certification supports quality care for stroke patients and highlights implications of COVID-19 for hospital stroke programs. For five years, ACHC has been compiling data into an annual retrospective review from ACHC-certified stroke centers, using quarterly performance metrics relevant to each level of certification.

ACHC collected the newly reported data throughout 2021, and while the most acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic had receded with the release of coronavirus vaccines in early 2021, repercussions continued to stress individual provider organizations and systems. Primary and secondary research have also indicated a direct connection between COVID-19 and stroke and revealed that COVID-19-connected stroke patients are younger, too.*

“New data continues to solidify the need for effective planning, policy and procedure with regard to stroke patients in the face of competing and converging priorities for hospitals,” said Deanna Scatena, associate program director of ACHC. “ACHC continues to support and help improve upon the quality of care provided by certified stroke centers as they are essential to the immediate treatment, recovery and well-being of these patients.”

Key Findings

Last year, in addition to the measures applicable to all stroke programs, ACHC began including those specifically focused on Thrombectomy and Comprehensive Stroke Centers. The results demonstrate that ACHC-certified stroke centers continue to meet or exceed the benchmarks established as national goals.

“The goals of this review are to carry on supporting stroke centers through comparative performance resources, augment the culture of community and evaluate the effectiveness of ACHC Certification as a driver of quality improvement,” said Scatena. “We aim to help our accredited stroke centers build upon their success in these efforts and guide them on this path.”

To review the full report, [click here](#). For more information about stroke center certifications (Stroke Ready, Primary Stroke, Thrombectomy Stroke, Comprehensive Stroke), please visit <https://www.achc.org/stroke-certification/>.

**M Mafham, C Baigent (2021). What is the association of COVID-19 with heart attacks and strokes? The Lancet, Volume 398, Issue 10300, P561-563, August 14, 2021. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01071-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01071-0). [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)01071-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01071-0/fulltext)*

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