

**Media Contacts:**

Corinne Racine  
(312) 565-4615; [cracine@lcwa.com](mailto:cracine@lcwa.com)

Angela FitzSimmons  
(855) 937-2242, ext. 280; [AFitzSimmons@achc.org](mailto:AFitzSimmons@achc.org)

## **ACHC Benchmarking Review Shows Stroke Centers Continue to Meet or Exceed National Standards**

*Data Indicate Recovering Improvement from Previous COVID-19 Implications*

**CARY, N.C. (June 14, 2022)** – Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc., (ACHC) has released “Benchmarking Quality, Review of 2022 Performance in ACHC-certified Stroke Centers.” The annual retrospective review from ACHC-certified stroke centers summarizes and analyzes quarterly performance metrics relevant to each level of certification achieved, including Comprehensive Stroke Certification, Thrombectomy Certification, Primary Stroke Certification and Stroke Ready Certification. All ACHC-certified stroke centers collect quarterly data on performance measures defined for their certification program and are invited to share their data for comparative review.

ACHC analysis found that more stroke centers demonstrated improvement and maintained quality standards than those which saw a performance decline. The report further highlights overall ACHC-certified stroke center improvement after the COVID-19 pandemic’s effects on hospital stroke programs. These optimistic data findings of improvement come at an important time, given that recent primary research expects the number of worldwide stroke deaths to increase to nearly 5 million by 2030.\*

“This resource helps individual stroke centers assess their performance against that of their peers,” said Deanna Scatena, associate director for acute care and critical access hospital programs for ACHC. “Our stroke certification program strives to empower and fulfill our customers’ needs through education, connection, and consultation. Together we create a dynamic network to foster cultures of continuous improvement to deliver better patient outcomes.”

### **Key Findings**

The benchmarking review measures 15 core activities, 10 of which improved or remained steady when compared with 2021 data. The greatest performance declines were measured against standards for door-to-needle time and stroke education.

“Our certified stroke centers, as the data show, continue to meet or exceed nearly all standards for performance established as national goals,” said Scatena. “ACHC is committed to helping these stroke centers drive excellence in patient care by improving planning and administration, direct care, and supportive services including community education and coordination with other providers.”

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/>.

\*Cantú-Brito, C., & García-Grimshaw, M. (2023). A Potential Forecast for Ischemic Stroke Burden in 2030: Are We There Yet? *Neurology*, 10.1212/WNL.000000000207517 May 17, 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.000000000207517>.  
<https://n.neurology.org/content/early/2023/05/17/WNL.000000000207517>.

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### **About ACHC**

Accreditation leader ACHC is a nonprofit with more than 35 years of experience promoting high-quality patient care. ACHC develops solutions trusted by healthcare providers nationwide and is committed to offering exceptional service and a collaborative accreditation experience tailored to specific needs.

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