St. Mary’s Medical Center
Earns Gold Plus Award for Stroke Care

Blue Springs, Mo. – St. Mary’s Medical Center has earned the Get With The Guidelines®—Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. This award recognizes St. Mary’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted guidelines.

“This is a really great achievement,” says Kathleen Henderson, Stroke Program Coordinator at St. Mary’s. “It takes two years to earn this and it shows that St. Mary’s is doing what evidence-based research shows is best for stroke patients. It shows St. Mary’s is among the top hospitals in the country in providing aggressive, proven stroke care.”

To earn the award, St. Mary’s achieved an 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines–Stroke Quality Achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month intervals and 75 percent or higher compliance on at least five Get With The Guidelines Stroke Quality Measures. The guidelines are aimed at reducing death and disability and improving the lives of stroke patients. Time is critical in the treatment of stroke.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, 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.

St. Mary’s Medical Center is a 146-bed hospital providing a wide range of acute care and outpatient services from a 24-hour emergency department to state-of-the-art cardiovascular care. Key services include the Carondelet Heart Institute, Stroke Center, Breast Center, Joint and Spine Institute and Surgical Institutes and Inpatient Rehabilitation Center. Consistent with its mission, St. Mary’s provides compassionate, quality healthcare with a special concern for the poor. For more information, visit stmaryskc.com.