

# Stroke Certification



**Achieving excellence beyond accreditation**

Accreditation is just  
the beginning.



For health care accreditation, the experience and knowledge of The Joint Commission is unmatched. Our commitment to excellence is applied with equal passion and rigor to our stroke certification program, as we put the tools, knowledge and guidance in place for you to deliver continuously reliable and excellent care to stroke patient populations.

#### ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE BEYOND ACCREDITATION

### **The Power of a Single Certification Provider**

With a suite of certification offerings covering your entire spectrum of services, The Joint Commission provides benefits no a la carte provider can, including:

- Seamless, logistical implementation
- Certification reports tailored to your needs
- A unified platform for consistent care delivery
- An efficient, affordable single process

### **Certification Development**

The Joint Commission's Advanced Stroke Certifications are offered in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.



# What is stroke certification

## Our stroke certification offerings

Our comprehensive portfolio of stroke certifications meets the customized needs of every type of hospital within your system. Each certification program recognizes an organization's distinct achievement in delivering evidence-based care. Certification is your organization's commitment to continuous performance improvement, providing high-quality patient care and reducing risks. Stroke Certification options are evaluated under the Disease-Specific Care Certification manual and have three main components: standards, clinical practice guidelines, and performance measurement. This structure provides a framework for consistency of care to improve patient outcomes.

The Joint Commission offers four advanced levels of certification for hospitals:

- **Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC)**
- **Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (TSC)**
- **Primary Stroke Center (PSC)**
- **Acute Stroke Ready Hospital (ASRH)**

The Joint Commission also offers a core stroke certification for rehabilitation hospitals.



“As an organization committed to continuous quality improvement, achieving certification gives us a tremendous opportunity to keep pushing ourselves to do better for our patients as The Joint Commission representatives share ideas and resources to help us improve, actually assisting the organization and creating a higher quality program.”

Jenevra Foley, Operations Director Comprehensive Stroke Center  
Michigan Medicine

# Ten reasons to pursue stroke certification

1. Assists organizations in establishing a consistent approach to care, reducing variation and the risk of error
2. Designation for excellence in the care of stroke patients
3. Provides a framework to improve patient outcomes
4. Demonstrates commitment to a higher standard of clinical service
5. Creates a loyal, cohesive clinical team
6. Helps to organize teams across the continuum of care
7. Provides a competitive edge in the marketplace — supports marketing, contracting and reimbursement
8. Enhances the facility's ability to attract top-level talent
9. Strengthens community confidence in the quality and safety of care, treatment and services
10. Potential to increase patient volumes due to EMS routing protocols

## JOINT COMMISSION CERTIFIED ORGANIZATION REPORT:

- Consistent improvement over time on key measures
- Superior performance across all measures



Source: Joint Commission measure performance data from certified organizations.



# Stroke certifications

## Certifications to meet the specific needs of your health care facility

The Joint Commission provides stroke program certification in the following health care settings:

- Academic/Teaching Hospitals
- Community Hospitals
- Critical Access/Rural Hospitals
- Free Standing Emergency Centers

### **General Eligibility**

- Meet the requirements for Disease-Specific Care Certification

- A formal interdisciplinary program structure
- Utilizes evidence-based clinical practice guidelines
- A formal approach to collecting, analyzing and interpreting performance measures
- Serve a minimum of 10 patients prior to an initial certification review
- Part of a hospital that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including Medicare Conditions of Participation

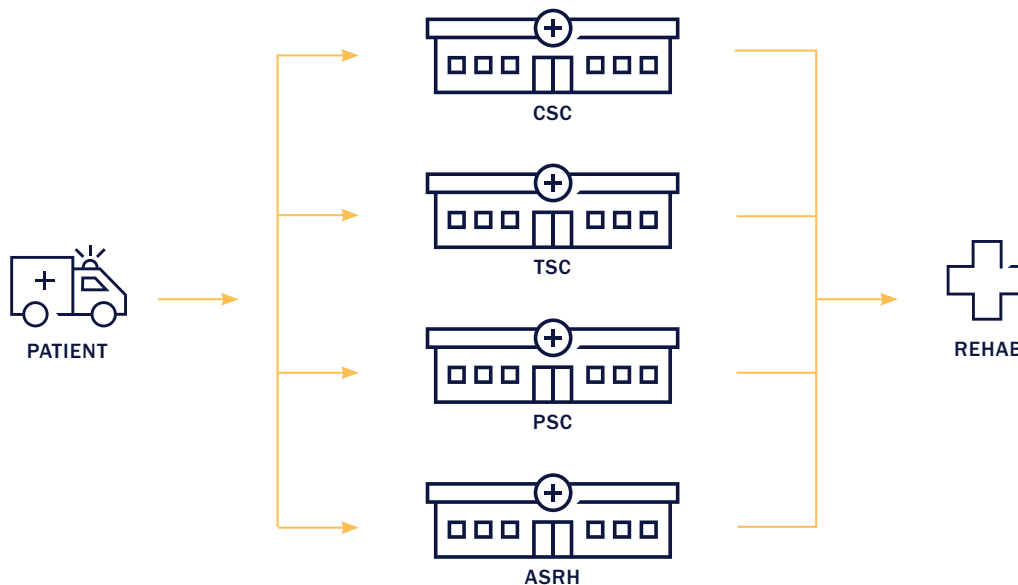
## National standards.

Demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards and performance measurement expectations may help obtain contracts from employers and payors concerned with controlling costs and improving productivity.





- **Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) Certification** is the most demanding certification and is designed for those hospitals that have specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases.
- **Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (TSC) Certification** is designed for hospitals providing endovascular procedures and post-procedural care.
- **Primary Stroke Center (PSC) Certification** is designed for hospitals providing the critical elements to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes.
- **Acute Stroke Ready Hospital (ASRH) Certification** is for hospitals or emergency centers with a dedicated stroke-focused program.



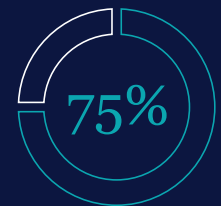
# Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification

## Featured certifications

With the guidance of the Brain Attack Coalition's Recommendations for the Establishment of Comprehensive Stroke Centers, The Joint Commission in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) offers an Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers; those hospitals that have specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases.

The goal of establishing this level of certification is to recognize the significant differences in resources, staff and training that are necessary for the treatment of complex stroke cases. And as EMS routing protocols dictate where patients will be taken, the most complicated cases can be treated at the centers best equipped to provide the specialized care that can lead to better outcomes.

Trusted industry leader certifying 75% of all CSCs.





## CSC GUIDELINES

### Standards & Guidelines

- Uses advanced Disease-Specific Care standards and additional expectations for transitions of care
- Organization chooses and implements clinical practice guidelines

### Key Requirements

- Acute stroke team available 24/7
- Dedicated neurointensive care unit beds for complex stroke patients 24/7
- Comprehensive diagnostic services
- Ability to meet concurrent needs for two complex stroke patients 24/7
- Neurosurgical services available 24/7
- On-site coverage for NICU by neurospecialist
- Participation in patient-centered research that is approved by an Institutional Review Board
- Tracking, monitoring, and reporting of performance measures

For a complete list of requirements, please refer to the CSC standards.

# Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center Certification

## Featured certifications



The Joint Commission's Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center Certification recognizes centers that perform endovascular thrombectomy procedures. The Joint Commission in collaboration with the AHA/ASA offers this advanced stroke certification in response to the need to identify hospitals that meet rigorous standards for performing endovascular thrombectomy (EVT) and providing post-procedural care.

This addition to our stroke portfolio was developed because recent studies have shown the efficacy of mechanical thrombectomy for large vessel occlusive ischemic strokes and for the best patient outcomes, it is important to have a diverse network of stroke-certified hospitals, so patients can get to the right location as soon as possible.



## TSC GUIDELINES

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### **Key Requirements**

- Acute stroke team available 24/7
- Neurologist accessible 24/7 via in person or telemedicine
- Designated stroke beds
- Sufficient diagnostic services
- Ability to provide IV thrombolytics
- Tracking, monitoring, and reporting of performance measures

*For a complete list of requirements, please refer to the standards.*

### **Standards & Guidelines**

- Uses advanced Disease-Specific Care standards and additional expectations for transitions of care
- Organization chooses and implements clinical practice guidelines

# Primary Stroke Center Certification

## Featured certifications

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center certification recognizes centers that make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care. Achievement of certification signifies that the services you provide have the critical elements to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes. It is the best signal to your community that the quality care you provide

is effectively managed to meet the unique and specialized needs of stroke patients.

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification program is offered in collaboration with the AHA/ASA. It is based on the Brain Attack Coalition's Recommendations for the Establishment of Primary Stroke Centers.

## PSC GUIDELINES

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### Key Requirements

- Acute stroke team available 24/7
- Neurologist accessible 24/7 via in person or telemedicine
- Designated stroke beds
- Sufficient diagnostic services
- Ability to provide IV thrombolytics
- Tracking, monitoring, & reporting of performance measures

### Standards & Guidelines

- Uses advanced Disease-Specific Care standards and additional expectations for transitions of care
- Organization chooses and implements clinical practice guidelines

*For a complete list of requirements, please refer to the standards.*

Joint Commission  
certified PSCs  
outnumber the  
competition 10 to 1.

# Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Certification

## Featured certifications

Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Certification is offered in collaboration with the AHA/ASA and is based on the Brain Attack Coalition's Recommendations for the Establishment of Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals. Acute Stroke Ready Hospital certification fulfills a community need within a stroke system of care.

The Joint Commission certifies  
10 times the number of ASRHs  
as the competition.





## ASRH GUIDELINES

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### Key Requirements

- Acute stroke team available 24/7
- Neurologist accessible 24/7 via in person or telemedicine
- Diagnostic services
- Telemedicine within 20 minutes of it being necessary
- Ability to provide IV thrombolytics
- Tracking, monitoring, and reporting of performance measures

*For a complete list of requirements, please refer to the standards.*

### Standards & Guidelines

- Uses advanced Disease-Specific Care standards and additional expectations for transition of care
- Organization chooses and implements clinical practice guidelines

## What's the difference?

JOINT COMMISSION STROKE CERTIFICATION	THE COMPETITION
Certifies the most stroke centers in the US	Many fewer stroke certified organizations
Reviewers employed by The Joint Commission; receive thorough ongoing training, annual performance reviews and the vast majority are stroke coordinators or neurologists	Various models, some competitors use volunteers to do reviews
Offered in collaboration with the AHA/ASA	Follows ASA guidelines without collaboration
Joint Commission monitors the health care environment and revises requirements as needed to address emerging health care initiatives, helping organizations meet the needs of today's fast paced health care environment.	Follows minimum requirements
Supports community education through various programs including: making quality measures public since 2002, listing all accreditation/certification decisions, developing the National Patient Safety Goals®, and promoting our Speak Up™ campaign to educate patients. We provide vastly more information about quality to the public than any competitor.	Limited, if any

“We had a collegial and collaborative experience in our Comprehensive Stroke Center certification review. We learned from the experience, and everything was upfront.”

Victor Cruz Urrutia, M.D.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital Comprehensive Stroke Center

# Stroke rehabilitation

## Core certifications

Our core certifications help create a baseline of consistent excellence upon which you can build a care delivery framework to positively impact patient outcomes. These foundational programs encompass three main components—standards, clinical practice guidelines, and performance measurement.

Stroke Rehabilitation Certification is a foundational Disease-Specific Care Certification and must meet core standards under the Disease-Specific Care Certification manual.

## Eligibility & Requirements

To be eligible for core certifications, programs must:

- Be located in the United States, operated by the U.S. government, or operated under a charter of the U.S. Congress
- Be provided within a Joint Commission–accredited organization when the organization is eligible for accreditation
- Have served a minimum of 10 patients at the time it submits its application
- Use a standardized method of delivering clinical care based on clinical practice guidelines and/or evidence-based practice
- Use performance measurement to improve its performance over time



# Working with The Joint Commission

## Subject matter experts

Our reviewers are clinical experts with decades of experience caring for stroke patients across every type of hospital setting.

### No Surprises

Just like a Joint Commission accreditation survey, you will be fully aware of the process, know what's required, and have the agenda ahead of time. Reviewers will make the review process as transparent as possible and collaborate with you and your team throughout the on-site event in an attempt to avoid any surprises at the end of the review. Collaboration, engagement and sharing of best practices allows you and your team to continually improve your stroke program.

### Have Questions?

- For information about any of these certifications contact us at 630-792-5291 or email us at [certification@jointcommission.org](mailto:certification@jointcommission.org).
- For frequently asked questions about the standards contact our [Standards Interpretation Group \(SIG\)](#).

## Your Source for Stroke Certification

Joint Commission certification can help you elevate your ability to deliver the level of care and safety your patients deserve. To help you prepare for success during the certification process—and to address quality issues beyond—we provide you with a host of trusted, expert resources.

To further advance knowledge and expertise across your spectrum of services, our not-for-profit affiliate, Joint Commission Resources (JCR), provides an extensive offering designed to keep you and your staff on the cutting edge of stroke excellence, including:

- Educational Offerings
- Books, Manuals & Publications
- Innovative Electronic Solutions

**To learn more about how JCR can help you prepare, visit [jcrinc.com](http://jcrinc.com) today.**

## Looking to elevate and strengthen your stroke program?

The Joint Commission can help. With a comprehensive suite of offerings to choose from—backed by the expertise and insight of our robust stroke care experience—you will find the guidance, knowledge and framework you need to achieve improved outcomes and continued success.

**Reach out today.**

**For more information on Joint Commission stroke certification, please contact us at [certification@jointcommission.org](mailto:certification@jointcommission.org).**





**LEADING**  
the way to



The Joint Commission Enterprise envisions a future of zero harm and is committed to helping make it a reality. We believe zero harm is achievable and we're *leading the way to zero™* by helping hospitals like yours transform the way they work to prevent harm.

Examples of zero include zero patient falls, zero complications of care, zero infections, zero patient safety events, zero harm to employees, and zero missed opportunities to provide exemplary care.

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[jointcommission.org](http://jointcommission.org)