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For Immediate Release:

BMH first in Indiana to earn American Heart Association award for stroke care

MUNCIE—Ball Memorial Hospital has been awarded the “Get With The Guidelines Gold Performance Achievement Award” by the American Heart Association (AHA) for stroke care. BMH is the first hospital in Indiana to have achieved the Gold level of standards that the American Heart Association (AHA) has established for the treatment of all stroke patients.

The “Get With The Guidelines” program ensures that patients receive quality care and will be at a reduced risk of another stroke. The guidelines set forth by the AHA for the Gold Award require that hospitals maintain a compliance rate of 85 percent in seven key measures related to stroke care. The seven parameters include ensuring that patients receive a specific treatment regime in a strict time frame during their treatment following a stroke. The 85 percent compliance rate must be maintained for 24 consecutive months to earn the Gold Award. Ball Hospital’s compliance rate for the last 24 months exceeded 90 percent.

“The window of opportunity to treat a stroke patient is often very small,” said Dr. John Wulff, Neurologist, Ball Memorial Hospital. “All treatments and medications must be administered at the right time and in the right order within that narrow window to provide each stroke patient with the best treatment possible. This award is validation that the team of caregivers for stroke patients at BMH is among the top ten percent nationally.”

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), more than 700,000 people suffer a stroke every year. Stroke is the number one cause for disability and number three cause of death in America. Immediately following a stroke, millions of brain cells die as each minute passes, increasing the risk of permanent disability or death. Acting rapidly may reduce the permanent damage of stroke.

For more information, visit www.accessbmh.org or www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines.

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