Norwegian American Hospital
Stroke Services

With a stroke, every minute matters. But, thanks to the Telestroke Program at Norwegian American Hospital patients arriving at the Emergency Department can quickly be assessed by a stroke neurologist from Northwestern Memorial Hospital through video technology. This partnership allows accurate and prompt diagnosis of stroke without waiting for a neurologist to be physically present in the Emergency Department.

Emergency physicians and staff have had extensive training on the Telestroke technology and begin communicating with a Northwestern Memorial neurologist immediately from the patient’s bedside as if the physician were in the room.

The team determines whether the patient should be stabilized and transferred to Northwestern Memorial or should remain at Norwegian American Hospital for treatment by the hospital’s neurology team.

Primary Stroke Center
As a Certified Primary Stroke Center, Norwegian American Hospital is a state-recognized emergency facility that can accept ambulances with stroke patients.

Primary Stroke Certification from the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) is given to hospitals that have the capacity to stabilize, diagnosis and treat acute stroke patients, provide acute care, administer medications quickly, and provide rehabilitation therapies safely and efficiently.

We are honored to receive this distinction for many reasons, but most importantly because it exemplifies our commitment to you, our patient.
STROKE AND TIA ARE MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
Immediate treatment of stroke could mean the difference between life and death. Early treatment can minimize damage to your brain and prevent potential disability. If you seek medical attention immediately after onset of stroke symptoms, you have a better chance of reducing the potentially devastating consequences.

Impact of Stroke
- Stroke is the #4 cause of death in the U.S.
- Stroke is the #1 cause of disability in the U.S.
- On average, someone has a stroke every 40 seconds in the U.S.
- Each year, about 795,000 people have new or recurrent stroke
- Every 3 minutes, someone dies of stroke
- Strokes can occur at any age but the risk doubles after age 55
- Over 4 million people are living survivors of stroke.
- The estimated direct and indirect cost of stroke in 2014 was $73 billion

STROKE
Stroke is a type of cardiovascular disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked or bursts. When this happens, the affected part of the brain can no longer receive the blood and oxygen it needs to function and begins to die within minutes. Because the brain controls so many of the body’s vital functions, any amount of damage can be extremely serious or life threatening.

TIA
Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) occurs when stroke symptoms are experienced for a short time and then go away. TIA is a warning sign that you may have a stroke at any time. Even if the symptoms go away, you should still seek medical attention as quickly as possible.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS
If you notice any of the following warning signs or symptoms of stroke or TIA, call 911 immediately. Do not wait or attempt to drive yourself to the hospital. These symptoms indicate a serious medical emergency and every second counts.

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

Many people miss the onset of stroke because it does not present many identifiable symptoms. You can learn how to recognize if someone is having a stroke by thinking F.A.S.T.:

FACE Ask them to smile. Look for facial droop or an uneven smile.

ARM Ask them to hold up both arms. Look for weakness or drifting of one arm.

SPEECH Ask them to speak or repeat a phrase. Listen for slurred speech or difficulty speaking.

TIME Time saves brain tissue! Call 911 immediately if ANY of the above mentioned symptoms are present. Also, note the time of symptom onset. This is important to determine proper treatment.