



Northside Medical Center

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Northside Medical Center receives Get With The Guidelines Silver Plus Performance Achievement Award

Award demonstrates Northside's commitment to quality care for heart failure patients

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO JANUARY 13, 2009 — Northside Medical Center has received the Get With The Guidelines® Heart Failure Silver Plus Performance Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. The recognition signifies that Northside Medical Center has reached impressive benchmarks in the evidence-based treatment of heart failure patients.

Specifically, hospitals awarded the Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure Silver Plus Performance Achievement Award have accomplished at least 12 consecutive months of 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure Performance Achievement indicators and at least 12 consecutive months of 75 percent or higher compliance with four of nine Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure Quality Measures for the same reporting period, which are reporting initiatives to measure and improve quality of patient care and outcomes.

GWTG is a quality improvement initiative that provides healthcare providers with tools that follow proven evidence-based guidelines and procedures in caring for heart failure patients to improve outcomes, prevent future hospitalizations, and prolong lives.

Using Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure treatment guidelines, heart failure patients are started on aggressive risk-reduction therapies, such as cholesterol-lowering drugs, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, aspirin, diuretics and anticoagulants in the hospital. They also receive alcohol/drug use and thyroid management counseling as well as referrals for cardiac rehabilitation before being discharged.

“The full implementation of national heart failure guideline recommended care is a critical step in preventing recurrent hospitalizations, prolonging and improving the lives of heart failure patients,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., chair of the Get With The Guidelines National Steering Committee and director of the TeleStroke and Acute Stroke Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. “The goal of the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines program is to help hospitals like Northside implement appropriate evidence-based care and protocols that will reduce disability and the number of deaths in these patients.”

According to the American Heart Association, about 5.7 million people suffer from heart failure. Statistics also show that, each year, 670,000 new cases are diagnosed and more than 292,200 people will die of heart failure.

“Northside Medical Center is dedicated to being among the best hospitals in the country in the care of heart failure patients,” said Michael Seelman, COO Northside Medical Center. “This recognition demonstrates that we are on the right track and will continue with aggressive implementation of the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure program.”

Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure helps Northside’s staff develop and implement acute and secondary prevention guideline processes. The program provides hospitals with a web-based patient management tool, decision support, robust registry, real-time benchmarking capabilities and other performance improvement methodologies toward the goal of enhancing patient outcomes and saving lives.

This high-tech, evidence-based approach enables Northside Medical Center to improve the quality of care it provides heart failure patients, save lives and ultimately, reduce healthcare costs by avoiding re-hospitalization.

For more information on Get With The Guidelines, visit www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines.

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