

UF HEALTH SHANDS COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTER

Know the differences between stroke certifications. It matters where you get your stroke care.

JOINT COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS	PRIMARY STROKE CENTERS
PATIENT CARE	
Able to care for ALL types of stroke patients, including those with simple and complex ischemic (blood vessel blockage) strokes as well as hemorrhagic (bleeding) strokes	Cares for most cases of ischemic strokes
STROKE TREATMENT	
24/7 access to IV tPA (clot-busting drug) and advanced medical and endovascular therapies for stroke	Access to IV tPA
Administers IV tPA to 25 or more patients each year	No minimum requirement
Patient-centered clinical trials that offer the latest in stroke therapy	NOT required
PATIENT EXPERIENCE	
Dedicated neurointensive care unit (ICU) beds for complex stroke patients, which includes physicians and nursing staff with expertise on-site to provide neuro-critical care 24/7	NOT required to have a specialized patient care unit for stroke patients
Specialized education and competencies for staff to provide expert stroke care	NOT required
EXPERT CARE	
Stroke Program medical director has extensive expertise in stroke neurology	NOT required
Evaluation by a stroke neurologist within 15 minutes of arrival to the hospital	
NEUROSURGICAL SERVICES	
Onsite neurosurgical capabilities available 24/7, including complex procedures with the ability to perform complex procedures for stroke patients, such as brain aneurysm clipping and coiling, vascular malformation surgery and carotid endarterectomy and stenting	NOT required to have 24/7 neurosurgery availability
POST-HOSPITAL CARE COORDINATION	
Available 7 days a week: Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology. Patients are assessed to identify post-hospital care needs. Includes acute rehab, long-term skilled nursing care, home care and outpatient services	NOT available 7 days a week
PATIENT TRANSFERS	
RECEIVES patients from primary stroke centers	May TRANSFER stroke patients to a comprehensive stroke center

The Brain Attack Coalition established the concept of *primary stroke centers* and *comprehensive stroke centers* in 2000. Hospitals that demonstrate a high quality of care and good results for their stroke patients can become *primary stroke centers*. However, achieving a *comprehensive stroke center* designation requires the ability to provide more complex services, including minimally invasive catheter-based treatments for stroke and challenging neurosurgical procedures. While a *primary stroke center* must be able to treat patients with ischemic (blood vessel blockage) types of stroke using a clot-busting drug, a *comprehensive stroke center* must also be able to treat such patients with catheter-based procedures to remove blood clots, as well as provide neurosurgical services for the treatment of bleeding strokes. *Comprehensive stroke center* certification is provided through a partnership between the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association and The Joint Commission. UF Health is part of an elite group of hospitals raising the bar for stroke care.



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If you are experiencing signs of a stroke, call 911 and ask to be sent to your closest Joint Commission certified comprehensive stroke center.

stroke.UFHealth.org