

For Immediate Release

JPS Hospital's Level 1 Trauma Center is now a Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center too; Dr. George Cravens explains the significance of the newest State of Texas designation.

Fort Worth, TX – (Dec. 14, 2016) The recent state certification of John Peter Smith Hospital (JPS) as a Comprehensive Stroke Center is yet another testimonial to the extraordinary life-saving care that this Level 1 Regional Trauma Center provides emergency patients throughout Tarrant and adjacent counties.

“JPS Hospital is among the best places in Texas to diagnose and treat strokes,” according to George F. Cravens, M.D., FAANS, FACS, and chair of the JPS Department of Neurosurgery. “Every minute is critical.”

His professional voice has shaped community and emergency medical services education programs about the consequences of what he calls a “Brain Attack” over the past 20 years. Working with Dr. Cravens on the JPS stroke team are Drs. Charles Huggins and Saud Kahn as well as nurses Allene Brown and Lauri Speirs.

Stroke is a disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. Behind only cancer and heart disease as the cause of death, it is the number one cause of lifelong disabilities in the United States. Reaching quality medical care in a timely manner is critical to arrest the rapid death of brain cells. Both the State of Texas and private organizations are involved in certifying care facilities so that patients and EMS providers know where the most appropriate treatment is available during emergency situations.

DNV GL, an independent accrediting organization that certifies hospitals according to their capabilities, reviewed patient outcomes and procedures at JPS and inspected all areas of the hospital involved in caring for stroke patients, including the Emergency Department, Specialized Intensive Care Units, Neuroradiology, Interventional Neuroradiology, Physical Therapy and nursing units.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, through its state-wide trauma treatment network, works to ensure that patients are transported to the nearest hospital most equipped to care for them. Following the state inspection and accreditation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, surveyors wrote that JPS is the “best prepared” program they have ever inspected.

Stroke centers have a 24/7 dedicated team with expertise that includes neurosurgery, vascular neurology, neuroradiology, invasive and interventional neuroradiology/endovascular physicians, critical care specialists, advanced practice nurses, rehabilitation specialists, and social workers. They employ advanced diagnostic

imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computerized tomography angiography (CTA), and 3D digital cerebral angiography. Comprehensive stroke centers are capable of performing surgical and interventional therapies such as stenting and angioplasty of intracranial vessels, carotid endarterectomy, aneurysm clipping and coiling, endovascular ablation of AVM's and intra-arterial reperfusion. Additionally, stroke centers are education and research hubs.

Patients are brought to the JPS Emergency Department from throughout Tarrant, Parker, Palo Pinto, Johnson, Hood, and Wise counties. Dr. Cravens is committed to helping educate EMS personnel in medical protocols for strokes.

“Too many people die or are left with permanent disabilities because of strokes. If we direct patients to facilities that are capable of effective and efficient treatment, then we can prevent some of these tragedies,” says Dr. Cravens.

Dr. Cravens is the founder of the Center for Neurological Disorders in Fort Worth. Committed to research and innovation, Dr. Cravens created an unprecedented continuum of care in a non-hospital environment by bringing together the specialists needed for the treatment of neurological diseases. He has performed over 9,000 surgical cases, including 3,000 craniotomies, and has been involved in research, teaching and training residents at John Peter Smith Hospital for over two decades. Currently, he serves on the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council Stroke Committee for the State of Texas.

“JPS is a critical health care provider for our region. Some of the most revered physicians in Texas, or even the country, treat today's most threatening diseases in this state-of-the-art facility right here in Fort Worth. This stroke designation is another testament to the level of care that we provide. We effectively treat even the most challenging of stroke cases—JPS physicians are the best of the best,” Dr. Cravens says.

For more information about Dr. Cravens or CND, visit cndpa.com.

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