



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE STROKE AND HEART FAILURE TREATMENT**

The American Heart Association presents Queen's with multiple achievement awards

HONOLULU – The Queen's Medical Center – Punchbowl (Queen's) and The Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu (Queen's-West) have received American Heart Association achievement awards for implementing quality improvement measures that ensure cardiovascular patients receive efficient and coordinated care, ultimately leading to more lives saved, shorter recovery times and fewer returns to the hospital.

Nearly half of all adults in the U.S. have experienced some form of cardiovascular disease including heart attack, stroke and heart failure. For patients with conditions that are severe enough to require transport or admission to a hospital, time is critical.

The American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® program helps reduce barriers to prompt treatment for cardiovascular events. As participants in the program, Queen's and Queen's-West applied for recognition by demonstrating their commitment to providing stroke and heart failure patients with the most appropriate treatment according to nationally-recognized, research-based guidelines.

"This award shows our dedication to delivering the highest quality of acute stroke care," said Kazuma Nakagawa, MD, Medical Director of Queen's Comprehensive Stroke Center. "Stroke is a devastating condition that can change a person's life forever if not treated in a timely manner. Every minute during a stroke, 1.9 million brain cells are lost permanently. However, when we work together as a team to provide a definitive treatment in a timely fashion, we see miracles. We see our patients regain full brain function and go back home to their loved ones."

"Queen's is honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for the steps we take to ensure patients have the best possible longevity and quality of life after suffering a cardiovascular event," said Dipanjan Banerjee, MD, Director of Queen's Advanced Heart Failure Program. "The Get With The Guidelines program elevates our team's ability to get the evidence-based treatments to the right patients, so more patients can experience longer, healthier lives."

The following achievement awards were presented this year:

- **The Queen's Medical Center – Punchbowl**
 - Stroke Gold Plus Award
 - Heart Failure Gold Award
 - Target Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll
 - Target Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

- **The Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu**
 - Stroke Gold Plus Award



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

- Target Stroke Elite Honor Roll
- Target Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

“We are pleased to recognize Queen’s and Queen’s-West for their commitment to cardiovascular care,” said Lee H. Schwamm, MD, national chairperson of the American Heart Association’s Quality Oversight Committee and Executive Vice Chair of Neurology, Director of Acute Stroke Services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. “Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the American Heart Association’s quality improvement programs often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates.”

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and speeding recovery times.

Meanwhile, more than 6.5 million adults in the U.S. are living with heart failure, according to the association. Many heart failure patients can lead a full, enjoyable life when their condition is managed with proper medications or devices and with healthy lifestyle changes.

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About The Queen’s Medical Center:

The Queen’s Medical Center (Queen’s), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, is an acute care medical facility accredited by The Joint Commission. The facility is licensed for 575 acute beds and serves as the major tertiary and quaternary referral center for cancer, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, orthopaedics, surgery, emergency medicine and behavioral health medicine. It is the state’s designated trauma center verified as Level I by the American College of Surgeons. It has the only organ transplantation program in Hawaii. Queen’s is a major teaching hospital, serving as a clinical training site for the residency programs sponsored by the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. Queen’s is the only hospital in Hawaii to achieve Magnet® status – the highest institutional honor for hospital excellence – from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

About The Queen’s Medical Center – West O’ahu:

The Queen’s Medical Center – West O’ahu (QMC-West), located in Ewa in West O’ahu, is a community hospital licensed for 104 acute beds. It provides major hospital services including an emergency room, inpatient and outpatient surgery, imaging, a women’s health center, orthopaedics, diabetes education and management, cardiology, cancer care, ENT, and specialty clinics. QMC-West is a part of The Queen’s Health Systems. It was established to extend the mission of Queen’s to the West O’ahu region to provide quality health care services to the fastest growing area in the state.

About Get With The Guidelines®:

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with tools and resources to increase adherence to the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 9 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit heart.org/quality.