



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER AWARDED THE FIRST  
ADVANCED CERTIFICATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE STROKE  
CENTERS IN HAWAII**

HONOLULU --The Queen's Medical Center (Queen's) today announced that it has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers. The Gold Seal of Approval® and the Heart-Check mark represent symbols of quality from their respective organizations.

With this certification, Queen's joins an elite group of health care organizations focused on highly-specialized stroke care. To be eligible, hospitals must have first demonstrated compliance with stroke-related standards as a Primary Stroke Center and, as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, must meet additional requirements, including those related to advanced imaging capabilities, 24/7 availability of specialized treatments, and providing staff with the unique education and competencies to care for complex stroke patients.

Queen's underwent a rigorous onsite review in October 2016, when Joint Commission experts evaluated compliance with stroke-related standards and requirements.

"By achieving this advanced certification, The Queen's Medical Center has thoroughly demonstrated the greatest level of commitment to the care of its patients with a complex stroke condition," says Mark R. Chassin, MD, President and CEO, The Joint Commission. "Certification is a voluntary process and The Joint Commission commends The Queen's Medical Center for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate the standard of its care for the community it serves."

"The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association congratulates The Queen's Medical Center on achieving Comprehensive Stroke Center certification," said Nancy Brown, Chief Executive Officer, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. "Meeting the standards for Comprehensive Stroke Center certification represents a commitment to deliver high quality care to all patients affected by stroke."

"The certification provides us with the framework to create a culture of excellence," said Darlena Chadwick, RN, Vice President of Patient Care for the Neurosciences, The Queen's Health Systems. "For over a decade, Queen's was the only primary stroke center



in Hawaii, and now, we are proud to be one of only 100 certified Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Centers in the nation.”

Established in 2012, Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers is awarded for a two-year period to Joint Commission-accredited acute care hospitals.

Stroke is the number five cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States, according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. It remains the third leading cause of death in Hawaii. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

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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 535 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 II 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.

#### **The Joint Commission**

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

#### **The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association**

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association are devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – America’s No. 1 and No. 5 killers. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based American Heart Association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. The American Stroke Association is a division of the American Heart Association. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org) or call any of our offices around the country. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The familiar Heart-Check mark now helps consumers evaluate their choices in hospital care. Each mark given to a hospital is earned by meeting specific standards for the care of patients with heart disease and/or stroke. The Heart-Check mark can only be displayed by hospitals that have achieved and defined requirements set by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. For more information on the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Hospital Accreditation Program visit [www.heart.org/myhospital](http://www.heart.org/myhospital).