

**American Heart Association/American Stroke Association &
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Announce Continued and Ongoing Collaboration around
Acute Stroke Care and Quality Improvement**

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (DHDSP) announce their collaborative relationship on stroke care within the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry (PCNASR) and the AHA/ASA's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke inpatient quality improvement program. Through this relationship, both parties seek to engage state health departments in improving acute stroke care through a collaborative process involving data collection and quality improvement activities. Through the AHA's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke program, participating hospitals are equipped with a robust data collection and reporting tool (with decision support) and AHA quality improvement field staff with expertise in hospital and system-level quality improvement.

Because there is considerable overlap between the PCNASR and Get With The Guidelines-Stroke programs (with co-developed acute stroke consensus performance measures endorsed by the National Quality Forum) both parties seek to ensure future and ongoing collaboration to foster improvement in stroke care. This relationship will help to support CDC's goals pertaining to the continuum of stroke care for patients while supporting the AHA/ASA's 2020 Health Impact Goal of improving the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20% while reducing deaths from CVD and stroke by 20%. Additionally, through this work, the AHA/ASA and CDC will (1) work with state health departments to expand the breadth and depth of outreach and training of public health professionals and stroke care professionals, (2) provide technical assistance to state health departments and hospitals on data analysis and interpretation of quality improvement and quality data (including Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Patient Management Tool), (3) fund state health departments (subject to funding availability and goals and mission of the CDC) to implement state-based stroke quality improvement programs, and many other state and national level acute stroke quality improvement activities.

For more information, please visit www.cdc.org and www.heart.org