



American  
Stroke  
Association.  
A division of the  
American Heart Association.

# Growing Need for Quality Stroke Care

Adherence to evidence-based guidelines improves stroke care. The American Stroke Association collaborates with local societies and global stroke organizations to enhance the quality and accessibility of stroke care worldwide by offering International Stroke Center Certification.

## The Impact of Stroke

More than  
**101 MILLION**  
people worldwide have  
experienced a stroke.<sup>1</sup>

There are  
**12.2 MILLION**  
new strokes per year.  
One every 3 seconds.<sup>2</sup>



Each year,  
**7.4 MILLION**  
died from stroke  
globally; the  
highest number of  
stroke deaths  
occurred in  
Central, Southeast and  
East Asia, Oceania and  
Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>2</sup>

**1 in 4**  
people will have a stroke  
in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Stroke Organization Global Fact Sheet. [https://www.world-stroke.org/assets/downloads/WSO\\_Global\\_Stroke\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://www.world-stroke.org/assets/downloads/WSO_Global_Stroke_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Available from <https://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/ihme-data/cvd-1990-2021>. (Accessed July 2023)




Outcomes improve when providers and hospitals follow **data-driven processes** and procedures that lead to the development, management and implementation of **high-quality care.**

## About International Stroke Certification through the American Stroke Association

### Integrated, Collaborative Stroke Care Across Service Lines for Reduced Variations in Care and Improved Outcomes

The American Stroke Association's International Stroke Certification is an in-hospital, continuous quality improvement program helping hospitals and healthcare providers apply evidence-based treatment therapies and preventative measures to stroke patients.

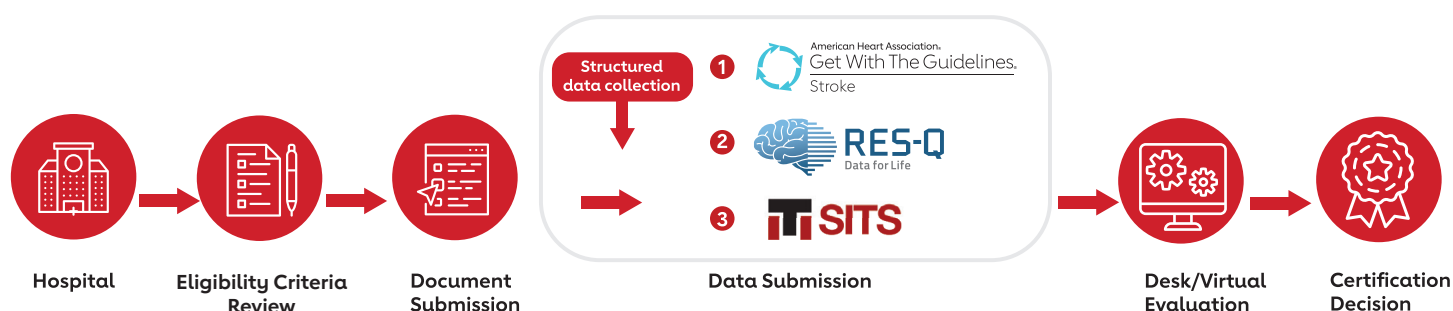
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- ☒ International Stroke Certified Centers must document and demonstrate how their organization has committed to providing quality care.
  - ☒ The de-identified data collected allows hospitals to identify gaps based on observed trends and patterns to reduce variations in care.
  - ☒ Previously collected data from other programs like SITS and RES.Q can be uploaded into Get With The Guidelines® to start seeing areas to target for immediate improvement easily. This also reduces the burden on staff time.

# Acute Stroke Ready, Primary and Comprehensive Certification Levels

Level of Care	Acute Stroke Ready*	Primary Stroke Centers	Comprehensive Stroke Centers
Rapid assessment, imaging ability and IV thrombolytic therapy	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure to manage acute stroke patients	✓	✓	✓
Interdisciplinary team available to meet the medical, recovery and social needs of the patient		✓	✓
Transfer protocols between facilities for patients with medical complexity, who need interventions or who experience neurosurgical emergencies for ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke	✓	✓	✓
Hospitals have a robust stroke quality improvement initiative in place and provide stroke-specific education for the care team as well as collect data	✓	✓	✓
Advanced imaging			✓
24/7 availability of neurosurgical services and thrombectomy			✓
Participation in IRB-approved research			✓

\*Acute Stroke Ready Certification (ASRC) is only available in select markets. For more information, [click here](#) to find out if it is currently available in your region.

## Map to International Stroke Center Certification



## Benefits of International Stroke Center Certification through the American Stroke Association

### Certification supports your hospital in its work to achieve:

- ✓ Continuous and effective quality improvement in coordinated stroke care
- ✓ Improved outcomes and survival in your community
- ✓ Reduced variations in care
- ✓ Improved efficiency
- ✓ Improved financial outcomes.
- ✓ Recognition from a trusted brand in patient and community health
- ✓ Implementation of consistent and standardized care processes
- ✓ Education for healthcare professionals and the community



## Support For Implementation

The evidence-based guidelines for acute stroke care are at the foundation of the International Stroke Certification program and **Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke**. Your hospital will receive world-class support to implement guideline-directed therapies equitably to all patients.

### Support from the American Stroke Association includes:



Examples of structure to **build your stroke program team**



**Comprehensive Program Manual**,  
a best practice guide offering:



**Quality Improvement experts** to help you meet your stroke program goals



Ongoing collaboration with multidisciplinary team



Site preparation to help your hospital prepare for certification



**Quality Improvement Consultation**

Benchmark and compare against regional and U.S. hospitals

Identify opportunities, and implement plans to improve quality

## Powered by the World-Class Science of the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association have engaged in international efforts to save lives around the world. Our collaborative initiatives with global organizations provide support to governments, health care providers, hospital and pre-hospital systems and communities. Through these concerted efforts, we aim to enhance cardiovascular health outcomes and reduce the global burden of stroke and related diseases.



### Learn More

Scan or visit [www.Heart.org/StrokeCertification](http://www.Heart.org/StrokeCertification) to learn more.