



Facts about Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers

In September 2012 The Joint Commission, in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Brain Attack Coalition, launched the [Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers](#) (CSCs). This new level of certification recognizes the significant resources in staff and training that comprehensive stroke centers must have to treat complex stroke.

Requirements

Certification is available only to comprehensive stroke centers in Joint Commission-accredited acute care hospitals. Organizations seeking CSC certification must meet all of the general eligibility requirements for Disease-Specific Care and Primary Stroke Center certification. In addition, CSCs are required to:

- Have dedicated neuro-intensive care unit beds for complex stroke patients that provide neuro-critical care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Use advanced imaging capabilities.
- Annually provide care to 20 or more patients with a diagnosis of subarachnoid hemorrhage; perform 15 or more endovascular coiling or surgical clipping procedures for aneurysm; and administer IV tPA to an average of 25 or more eligible patients.
- Coordinate post hospital care for patients.
- Use a peer review process to evaluate and monitor the care provided to patients with ischemic stroke and subarachnoid hemorrhage.
- Participate in stroke research.

Performance measurement

Certified comprehensive stroke centers are required to meet the performance measurement requirements for primary stroke centers – collect data for the eight stroke core measures and submit monthly data points every quarter through the Certification Measure Information Process (CMIP). The stroke core (STK) measures can be found in the [Specification Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures](#).

New comprehensive stroke (CSTK) performance measures are currently in development and will be finalized in 2013. A six-month pilot test of 10 draft CSTK measures will be conducted beginning with discharges October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013.

Benefits

- Improves the quality of care provided to patients
- Demonstrates commitment to a higher standard of service
- Provides a framework for organizational structure and management
- Provides a competitive edge in the marketplace
- Uses standardized performance measures
- Recognizes those hospitals that have specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases

For more information

If you have questions, please send them to DSCInfo@jointcommission.org. See also the [Facts about Disease-Specific Care Certification](#) and [Facts about Primary Stroke Center Certification](#).