

April 17, 2015

## RVH achieves ‘Stroke Distinction’

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has been awarded Stroke Distinction, receiving the Award of Excellence from Accreditation Canada. It distinguishes RVH as one of only 10 hospitals in Canada to receive this designation, demonstrating national stroke leadership. For stroke patients it means they can be confident they will be receiving the best, and timeliest access to care from the team at RVH.

“At RVH safe, high-quality care is our top priority and with safety as our promise, we put our patients and their families first, always,” says Treva McCumber, Vice President, Transitions, Diagnostics and Chief Nursing Executive. “To ensure we are delivering the safest and evidence-based best stroke care, we undertook the process of gaining Stroke Distinction through Accreditation Canada. Our results were outstanding, in fact, there is only one other hospital the province that has received the award of Distinction in both acute *and* rehab stroke services.”

Stroke Distinction recognizes health organizations that demonstrate clinical excellence and an outstanding commitment to leadership in stroke care. It offers rigorous and highly specialized standards of excellence, in-depth performance indicators and protocols, and an on-site visit by expert stroke surveyors with extensive practical experience in stroke services.

“This remarkable achievement comes following months of preparation and a three day onsite assessment by surveyors in March,” says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. “During their visit, the surveyors commented on how impressive RVH’s stroke program is, noting the health centre met all indicators as well as ensuring continuous improvement in the timely response required to treat acute stroke patients.”

As part of the preparation for the survey, RVH established a dedicated Integrated Stroke Unit to provide specialized care for patients recovering from stroke. RVH is also home to the Enhanced District Stroke Centre for the Central East Stroke Network. RVH is the only facility in Simcoe County who can provide the clot busting drug tPA for acute ischemic stroke. When administered properly and in a timely fashion, tPA can minimize disability associated with stroke. Last year, 276 patients receive stroke care at RVH and this recent designation sets the foundation for the further expansion of the life-saving care provided.

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About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH’s team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering safe, high quality care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit [www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca)

