

January 30, 2018

**Board of Managers:**

Harry L. "Chip" Cahill, III  
Chairman  
Frank C. Di Vincenti, M.D.  
Vice-Chairman  
James E. Cramond  
Secretary-Treasurer  
David F. Andignac  
Barry H. Bordelon  
Nancy R. Cassagne  
Damon M. Dietrich, M.D.  
Gregory C. Feirn  
Timothy P. Kerner  
William A. Lazaro, Jr.  
Byron L. Lee  
William L. Mimeles  
Dwayne J. Munch, Sr.  
Otholino Remedios, M.D.

**West Jefferson Receives Two Prestigious Awards  
from Healthgrades for Stroke Care**



America's 100 Best in Nation



Top 5% in Nation

**Marrero, Louisiana (January 30, 2018)** – West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC) accepted two prestigious national awards from Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

**2018 America's 100 Best for Stroke Care Trophy  
2018 Stroke Care Excellence Award**

The awards were accepted by West Jefferson's Chief Nursing Officer, Monica Bologna during a presentation held on this afternoon in the hospital's atrium.

"We are proud to be one of two hospitals in Louisiana to receive both these prestigious awards, a true validation of the outstanding care provided by our team of physicians, nurses and staff," said Nancy R. Cassagne, President and CEO of West Jefferson Medical Center. "This recognition by Healthgrades further demonstrates our continued commitment to delivering the best care possible through progressive stroke treatments."

West Jefferson is one of 100 hospitals to receive the honor of America's 100 Best for Stroke, out of nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide. Additionally, WJMC is one of only two hospitals in Louisiana to receive this award.

From 2014-2016, patients treated at hospitals which did not receive the America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care Award are on average 1.57 times more likely to die than if they were treated at hospitals that did receive the award.\* Similarly, from 2014-2016, patients treated at hospitals receiving the America's 100

Best Hospitals for Stroke Care Award have on average, 36.4% lower risk of dying than if they were treated in hospitals that did not receive the award.

*\*Statistics are based on Healthgrades analysis of MedPAR data for years 2014 through 2016 and represent 3-year estimates for Medicare patients only*

West Jefferson is the recipient of the Healthgrades Stroke Care Excellence Award for the second consecutive year. This achievement places WJMC among the Top 5% of hospitals in the nation for Stroke Care, as measured by lowest risk-adjusted mortality. WJMC is one of only two hospitals in Louisiana, out of nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide, to receive this distinction.

From 2014-2016, patients treated at hospitals receiving the Stroke Care Specialty Excellence Award have, on average a 34% lower risk of dying than if they were treated in hospitals that did not receive the award.\*\* During this same time period, patients treated at hospitals which did not receive the Stroke Care Specialty Excellence Award have, on average 1.5 times more likely to die than if they were treated at hospitals that did receive the award. *\*\*Statistics are based on Healthgrades analysis of MedPAR data for years 2014 through 2016 and represent three-year estimates for Medicare patients only*

\*For its analysis, Healthgrades evaluated approximately 45 million Medicare inpatient records for nearly 4,500 short-term acute care hospitals nationwide to assess hospital performance in 32 common conditions and procedures, and evaluate comparative outcomes in appendectomy and bariatric surgery using all-payer data provided by 17 states. Healthgrades recognizes a hospital's quality achievements for cohort-specific performance, specialty area performance, and overall clinical quality. Individual procedure or condition cohorts are designated as 5-star (statistically significantly better than expected), 3-star (not statistically different from expected) and 1-star (statistically significantly worse than expected) categories. The complete ***Healthgrades 2018 Report to the Nation*** and detailed study methodology, can be found at [www.healthgrades.com/quality](http://www.healthgrades.com/quality).



**Photo caption:** (left to right) Monica Bologna, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer; Dr. Robert Chudgen, Chief Medical Officer; Dr. Frank Culicchia, Neurosurgeon; Alyana Samai, MPH, Stroke Program Coordinator; Kimberly Mathisen, SCRN, Stroke/Ortho Unit Clinical Manager; Dr. Michael Puents, Stroke Medical Director

#### **About West Jefferson Medical Center's Advanced Primary Stroke Center**

West Jefferson Medical Center was the first Primary Stroke Center in Louisiana, earning national certification from The Joint Commission in 2006. Since then, the team has continued to meet and exceed rigorous national standards for stroke care in order to provide patients with the greatest chance for recovery. The

WJMC Stroke Program is committed to providing each patient with 24/7 access to comprehensive, interdisciplinary stroke care from the time they arrive by EMS to when they are recovering in rehab.

**About West Jefferson Medical Center**

Founded in 1956, (WJMC) is a 435-bed community hospital located in Marrero, La. As a full-service medical center, WJMC offers comprehensive programs for preventive, emergency, acute and rehabilitative care with a medical staff of more than 400 physicians, and a complement of 1,700 employees and many volunteers. The medical center enjoys national awards for clinical excellence across many of its subspecialties. WJMC is a proud member of LCMC Health, a Louisiana-based, not-for-profit hospital system serving the healthcare needs of the Gulf Coast region. LCMC Health currently manages award-winning community hospitals including Children’s Hospital, Touro, New Orleans East Hospital, University Medical Center New Orleans and West Jefferson Medical Center.

###