

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**“For Immediate Release”**

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**MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES NYS STROKE CENTER DESIGNATION**

**New Rochelle, NY (March 13, 2006)** - Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester (SSMC) is pleased to announce its latest designation as a New York State (NYS) Stroke Center. As one of only a small number of statewide healthcare providers to receive this distinction, SSMC demonstrates an ongoing, leading-edge commitment to improving the health and well-being of those it serves.

The medical center’s stroke intervention and prevention capabilities underwent a rigorous review process including the quality of the facility, the equipment and the staff. This newest designation assures the public that Sound Shore Medical Center provides a standard of care for patients with a presumptive diagnosis of stroke. Board-certified neurologists with expertise in stroke care, including clot-busting treatment, as well as specially-trained emergency physicians, nurses and allied personnel are at the ready 24/7. SSMC offers unparalleled emergency services when tragedy strikes and seconds count.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of long-term disabilities. As a Stroke Center, Sound Shore is prepared to institute measures through an orchestrated, specialized team approach that offer the latest stroke treatment. Whenever an occurrence is suspected, it is imperative that emergency medical intervention be sought through the 9-1-1 system.

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## **CONTINUED *Care. For Life. News*-Medical Center Receives NYS Stroke Center Designation**

Following are some of the symptoms that should prompt immediate action – *Delay increases the potential for long-term disability or death:*

- *Sudden* numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body;
- *Sudden* confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech;
- *Sudden* trouble walking, dizziness or loss of balance or coordination; or
- *Sudden* severe headache with no known cause.

John R. Spicer, President & CEO remarked, “Sound Shore Medical Center is proud to have met the stringent guidelines for designation as a Stroke Center. This new concentration complements our well-established NYS Area Trauma Center, and our newly opened Chest Pain Center.” He continued, “Patients entering SSMC as emergencies not only have a location for intervention of multiple life-threatening injuries, but one that provides expertise in stroke assessment and treatment.”

### **ABOUT SOUND SHORE MEDICAL CENTER OF WESTCHESTER**

Sound Shore Medical Center (SSMC) is a 321-bed, community-based, teaching hospital located at 16 Guion Place in New Rochelle. Since its founding in 1892, SSMC has provided for the diverse medical needs of the community and region it serves. We are a major teaching affiliate of New York Medical College, member of the Sound Shore Health System and Pinnacle Healthcare. We have recently been identified as a national Solucient 100 Performance Improvement Leader, a center of excellence for bariatric surgery, awarded Commission on Cancer *with commendation* status by the American College of Surgeons and have added a dedicated Chest Pain Center to our emergency services. We are designated by New York State as an Area Trauma Center, Perinatal Hospital and Stroke Center. Also on our campus is the 150-bed Schaffer Extended Care Center, which provides 50 beds for short-term rehabilitation patients and 100 for long-term residents. Sound Shore is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation’s oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. To learn more about SSMC, visit [www.soundshore.org](http://www.soundshore.org) or for a Physician Referral, please call 914-MDs-LINE (914-637-5473).

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