

# Recognize-and Act On-Stroke Symptoms

**M**ost of us have been touched by stroke in some way. Either someone you know has or you yourself have had a stroke. If not, and you do experience stroke symptoms, would you know what to do?

Recognizing stroke symptoms is the first step. Stroke symptoms include the following: altered speech, facial droop, difficulty swallowing, loss of coordination and weakness, loss of sensation and numbness, altered vision, dizziness and confusion. No matter how briefly you experience these symptoms, a trip to the hospital is warranted. And these symptoms can return, so a full stroke work-up is recommended. Always utilize the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by dialing 911. EMS works in conjunction with all hospitals and follows stroke protocols. They notify the hospital that they are on their way, so the stroke team can be waiting for the patient at the ambulance doors when EMS arrives.

So, where do you go if you recognize you may be having a stroke? NCH Healthcare System is the only Joint Commission-certified Stroke Center in Collier County. NCH is also a Comprehensive Stroke Center through the Agency for Health Care Administration. This means NCH can remove blood clots from arteries in the brain as well as give the clot-busting drug called tPA. At NCH, the average door-to-needle time, which is the time from when you arrive until you receive

the tPA bolus, is within 24 minutes. The national benchmark is 60 minutes.

When choosing a hospital for stroke care in Collier County, choose NCH - the most awarded stroke hospital in Southwest Florida

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