

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***BRISTOL HOSPITAL ACHIEVES DESIGNATION AS PRIMARY STROKE CENTER***

(Bristol, CT, 5/6/08) – Bristol Hospital is proud to announce that it has successfully achieved designation as a Primary Stroke Center by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. This designation as a primary stroke center recognizes the dedication Bristol Hospital has to providing the most comprehensive stroke care, as well as the hard work and devotion of the Stroke Center team.

Bristol Hospital received the designation based on the exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care, including providing the elements to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes, and providing effectively managed care to meet the unique and specialized needs of stroke patients. This prestigious designation acknowledges Bristol Hospital's ability to implement best practice standards in Connecticut.

There are many possible warning signs and symptoms of stroke. The staff at Bristol Hospital strongly urge residents to call 911 and go to the nearest Stroke Center immediately if they experience any of the following: sudden numbness of face, arm or leg especially on one side of the body; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden confusion; trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble walking; dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.

If any of these symptoms occur, for even a brief period, it's vital to seek immediate medical attention. Stroke is a "brain attack" and rapid response greatly improves the chances for survival and a successful recovery. Stroke damage can be minimized and even reversed - it all depends on the speed with which the stroke sufferer can receive proper medical attention.

It is critically important where a patient receives care. Hospitals with a stroke center are best equipped to provide the most comprehensive care.

May is National Stroke Awareness Month, and the community is encouraged to learn more about this serious health problem. Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. Bristol Hospital will provide **free Stroke Risk Screenings on Saturday, May 17 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Bristol Hospital Perioperative Center, Brewster Road, Bristol.** Cholesterol, Glucose and Blood Pressure Screenings will be offered that day, as well as educational information. The community is encouraged to attend, as well as tour the Perioperative Center, which is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information, please call the Public Relations Department at 860-585-3524