

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Mary's Hospital in Troy Designated a Stroke Center by NYS Department of Health

TROY, NY – October 16, 2006 -- St. Mary's Hospital in Troy, the anchor facility of Seton Health's integrated health care system, has been designated as an official stroke center by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The designation means that Seton Health has a specially trained stroke team in place and the facility is specially qualified to treat people who may have had a stroke.

"We have implemented time-sensitive protocols so that stroke patients can be seen immediately by board certified Emergency Department physicians and neurologists," said Reen Carnevale, R.N, director of Seton Health's Emergency Department. "This designation means that our nurses, doctors and other members of the stroke team have completed extensive educational training in the diagnosis, management and care of patients with stroke.

At Seton Health, all of the Emergency Department staff have completed this education, as have the nurses and therapists on the inpatient stroke units. The Seton Health stroke team meets the patient upon arrival in the Emergency Department and immediately begins evaluation and treatment for appropriate care.

"We're very pleased to have met the requirements for this designation as it reaffirms our commitment to provide the highest quality of care for our patients," said Gino J. Pazzaglini, FACHE, Seton Health president and CEO. "Many patients don't realize that having a stroke or brain attack is as serious as having a heart

attack. It's important to be seen as soon as possible by qualified medical professionals."

The official designation is a part of an effort by NYSDOH to improve the standard of and access to quality of care for patients with a presumptive diagnosis of stroke. The Emergency Medical Services community plays an important role in the implementation of these stroke centers similar to the important role they play with state designated trauma centers.

Individuals who believe they have any symptoms of a stroke should call 911 immediately. Symptoms include:

- 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 seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble waking, dizziness or loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

About Seton Health

Seton Health is a comprehensive, integrated health care system anchored by St. Mary's Hospital in Troy, and a member of Ascension Health, the largest Catholic health care system in the country. Seton Health provides health care services from more than 20 sites in Rensselaer, Saratoga and Albany counties

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About Pegasus Emergency Group

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