

# Arkansas Acute Stroke Care Task Force

## FACTSHEET

### **Status:**

- Arkansas ranks third in the nation for stroke mortality with a rate that is more than 25% higher than the national average.
- In 2006, there were over 9,000 stroke-related hospitalizations in Arkansas, at a total cost of over \$185,000,000.
- Arkansas only has two hospitals with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO) certification for stroke care in the state: Sparks in Ft. Smith and Baptist in Little Rock.

### **Program:**

Develop a statewide stroke registry to monitor quality indicators of stroke care to improve quality of care and help reduce the state's stroke burden. The stroke registry would be a potential link to the proposed statewide trauma system for data collection.

### **Impact:**

- Ensure that Arkansans receive the highest quality of acute stroke care and reduce the number of untimely deaths attributable to stroke, prevent stroke-related disability and prevent stroke patients from suffering recurrent strokes.
- Decrease in the rate of premature death and disability from acute stroke through secondary prevention.
- Increase public awareness of stroke treatment and prevention.
- Reduce disparities in acute stroke care by providing underserved populations with better access to such care.

### **How it Works:**

- A statewide system of care for stroke patients would be developed through coordination with emergency medical services and collaboration among statewide partners.
- Best practices in hospital recruitment and training would be employed.
- Lessons learned from data collection will improve quality.
- Communication with major stakeholders will ensure ongoing improvement in the quality of stroke care.

**Administration/Oversight:** Funds will be disbursed through the Arkansas Department of Health. Funding will be utilized to add stroke collection components for the proposed statewide trauma system data collection. The bulk of the dollars in the first years will be used to set up the required data points for collecting stroke information. The information collected will assist the Acute Stroke Task Force in determining the best and most efficient ways to treat stroke in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Acute Stroke Care Task Force is appointed by the Director of the Department of Health and is staffed by ADH Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program. The registry will be housed within the Arkansas Department of Health in order to promote efficient operation and communication with the Arkansas Trauma System and the Arkansas Health Data Initiative.

