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KAISER PERMANENTE CERTIFIED AS PRIMARY STROKE CENTER
First in Southern California Medical Center Group to Receive Gold Seal

Kaiser Permanente San Diego has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. KP San Diego earned this distinction after the Joint Commission conducted an unannounced on-site review in September. The designation makes Kaiser Permanente Medical Center the first nationally certified stroke center in the Kaiser Permanente Southern California Region.

“We’re proud to achieve the distinction,” said Mary Ann Barnes, Senior Vice President and Executive Director for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals. “Kaiser Permanente is committed to providing outstanding care to our patients and our community and it is an honor to be recognized for that.”

The Joint Commission’s Primary Stroke Center Certification is based on the recommendations for primary stroke centers published by the Brain Attack Coalition and the American Stroke Association’s statements/guidelines for stroke care. The Joint Commission launched the program—the nation’s first—in 2003. A list of programs certified by the Joint Commission is available at www.jointcommission.org.

“Kaiser Permanente demonstrated that its stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients,” says Jean E. Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q., executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

Each year about 700,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke, which is the nation’s third leading cause of death. On average, a person suffers a stroke every 45 second and someone dies of a stroke every 3.1 minutes. Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States, with about 4.7 million stroke survivors alive today. When a stroke happens, the window of time for treatment is critical, and a primary stroke center hospital can be crucial when it comes to patient care.

About Kaiser Permanente:
Kaiser Permanente is America’s leading integrated not-for-profit health plan. Founded in 1945, it is a group practice prepayment program headquartered in Oakland, CA. Kaiser Permanente began serving San Diego in 1967, and currently provides care for more than 500,000 members throughout the county. Over 7,400 staff and more than 1100 physicians care for our members at 20 medical facilities and at Kaiser Permanente’s San Diego Medical Center. The Medical Center has 392 licensed beds and a 78 bed Emergency Department. To learn more, visit the web site at kp.org.

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