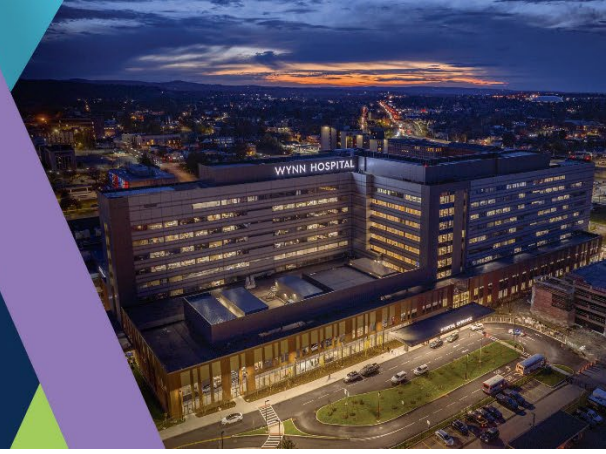


Just the Facts

— MVHS & WYNN HOSPITAL

There's so much happening in healthcare in our region – at times it's hard to stay updated! That's why Just the Facts is being reinvigorated. This weekly publication, published on Tuesdays, will provide you with the latest information about MVHS and the Wynn Hospital!



TOPIC FOR TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025:

Department Spotlight: Stroke Awareness Month

The MVHS Stroke and Neuro-Endovascular Program at the Wynn Hospital has received certification from DNV as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, reflecting the highest level of competence for treatment of serious stroke events.

What does this designation mean for patients?

Our whole hospital is involved in a patient's care, from emergency treatment and education through recovery and rehabilitation.

- A primary nurse is assigned to each patient for one-on-one care
- An Emergency Department physician is notified
- A lab technician is waiting to draw blood
- CT scanner and EKG technicians are notified and ready for the patient's arrival
- The Pharmacy is ready to consult for thrombolytic dosage.

Our dedicated clinical professionals have received extensive training as part of our Comprehensive Stroke Center designation and all patients' outcomes are monitored to continually improve the care we provide.

And since **May is National Stroke Awareness Month**, this is the perfect time to raise awareness, learn the differences between ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes and recognize the signs of stroke.

What is the Difference Between an Ischemic Stroke and a Hemorrhagic Stroke?

A **stroke** is a sudden loss of brain function and injury to part of the brain resulting from a problem with the blood vessels supplying the brain. There are two main types of stroke, those associated with rupture of the blood vessels (hemorrhagic strokes) and those associated with the blockage of blood vessels (ischemic strokes).

Roughly 87 percent of all strokes are **ischemic**, where blood flow to the brain is blocked.

A **hemorrhagic stroke** is caused when a blood vessel ruptures in the brain and blood accumulates in the tissue around the rupture. This puts pressure on the brain and causes a loss of blood to the surrounding areas. This is a less common type of stroke, but those who experience it are often sicker.

All hemorrhagic strokes are not the same; there are two main types:

- **Intracerebral** occurs when a vessel ruptures deep in the brain. It is often due to high blood pressure or age.
- **Subarachnoid Hemorrhage (SAH)** occurs when a vessel between the brain and the skull leaks or breaks, often times from a ruptured aneurysm or Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM). Other contributing factors include uncontrolled blood pressure, smoking, drug use and excessive alcohol intake.

It's important to note that if a "thunderclap" headache suddenly comes on, you should seek immediate medical attention, as that type of sudden, severe headache could be a sign of a hemorrhagic stroke.







Identifying Signs of Stroke

Stroke symptoms can come on suddenly, but the best outcomes occur when a patient is seen within two hours of the start of symptoms.

Recognize the signs of stroke using the FASTER method:

KNOW THE SIGNS OF A STROKE

A stroke is a medical emergency and symptoms come on suddenly.

F		FACE Uneven smile. One side of the face droops or is numb.
A		ARMS One arm drifts down when raising both or is weaker and more numb than the other.
S		STABILITY Dizziness. Hard time keeping balance. Trouble walking. Loss of coordination.
T		TALKING Slurred words. Unable to speak. Hard time being understood or understanding speech.
E		EYES Difficulty seeing out of one or both eyes. Double vision.
R		REACT Call 911 immediately! Call even if symptoms go away. Remember when symptoms first began.

Recovery After Stroke

If you or someone you know is a stroke survivor, MVHS has a network of survivors and caregivers that meet regularly. You will be able to listen or share with people who have had similar experiences. These people are each at different stages in the process of redefining life with these new challenges.

For more information on dates, times and locations of meetings, please contact the Stroke Program at 315-917-8248 or visit mvhealthsystem.org/stroke.