

### Three Area Hospitals Declared Emergent Stroke Ready

Three area hospitals are among thirty-two Kansas hospitals that have been declared Emergent Stroke Ready and able to adequately care for a stroke patient brought to their facility.

The American Heart Association and Kansas State Stroke Task Force announced this week that the Sabetha Community Hospital, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca and Onaga Community Hospital are among the hospitals that provided the necessary documentation to be named as Emergent Stroke Ready as part of the Kansas Initiative For Stroke Survival (KISS).

To date, there are currently 42 hospitals participating in the Initiative in one of three categories: Emergent Stroke Ready, Primary Stroke Center or 24/7 Neuro-Interventional Center.

Emergent Stroke Ready hospitals can diagnose, treat, and transport acute stroke patients to a higher level of care as warranted. They must also annually attest to the Kansas State Stroke Task Force their continued compliance with designation criteria.

Led by a team of 50 medical professionals known as the Kansas State Stroke Task Force, KISS is a project BY Kansans, FOR Kansans. The task force, which began in 2004, was created to study and address the issue of stroke care in Kansas and develop a comprehensive system of stroke care. Since its inception it has been directly supported by the American Heart Association.

During phase one of the initiative, 42 hospitals have submitted their data to be officially recognized within the Kansas System of Stroke Care. However, officials say much work to be done in subsequent phases to get the remaining 84 hospitals in Kansas to participate.

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