

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A Primary Stroke Center AND A Comprehensive Stroke Center?

Primary Stroke Centers	Comprehensive Stroke Centers
PATIENT CARE	
Takes care of most cases of ischemic (blood vessel blockage) types of stroke.	Cares for all types of stroke patients, including bleeding (or hemorrhagic) strokes, such as those caused by brain aneurysms.
MINIMALLY INVASIVE CATHETER PROCEDURES	
Not required.	24/7 access to minimally invasive catheter procedures to treat stroke.
SPECIALIZED INTENSIVE CARE UNIT FOR STROKE PATIENTS	
No requirement for a separate intensive care unit for stroke patients.	Dedicated neuroscience intensive care unit for stroke patients.
NEUROSURGERY	
Access to neurosurgery within 2 hours.	On site neurosurgical availability 24/7 with the ability to perform complex neurovascular procedures, such as brain aneurysm clipping, vascular malformation surgery and carotid endarterectomy.
PATIENT TRANSFERS	
Sends complex patients to a Comprehensive Stroke Center.	Receives patients from Primary Stroke Centers.
CENTRAL PA REGION STROKE CENTERS	
Good Samaritan Health System Hanover Hospital Lancaster General Health Memorial Hospital—York Pinnacle Health	Summit Health Chambersburg Hospital Summit Health Waynesboro Hospital WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital WellSpan York Hospital Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

For an updated listing of primary stroke centers in the region and a list of comprehensive stroke centers in the state or nation go to PennStateHershey.org/stroke.

The Brain Attack Coalition established the concept of Primary Stroke Centers and Comprehensive Stroke Centers in 2000. Hospitals that demonstrate a high quality of care and good results for their stroke patients can become Primary Stroke Centers. However, achieving a Comprehensive Stroke Center designation requires the ability to provide more complex services, including minimally invasive catheter-based treatments for stroke and challenging neurosurgical procedures. While a Primary Stroke Center must be able to treat patients with ischemic (blood vessel blockage types of stroke) using a clot busting drug, a Comprehensive Stroke Center must also be able to treat such patients with catheter-based procedures to remove blood clots, as well as provide neurosurgical services for the treatment of bleeding strokes.

