

# Know Before You Go

*Make sure you know why a comprehensive stroke center is better equipped to care for you in a stroke emergency.*

In an emergency, you want the highest level of care available to you. The Joint Commission provides the highest certification hospitals can achieve for stroke care. There are only FIVE Joint Commission-certified stroke centers in the state of Florida. UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville is the only hospital in Alachua County with comprehensive certification from The Joint Commission. Experts at UF Health are able to offer clot-busting drugs, as well as surgical procedures, for people throughout the state of Florida.

## Know the Comprehensive Difference

REQUIREMENTS	JOINT COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS – REQUIRED	AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS – REQUIRED
Required to provide IV tPA for at least 25 patients a year.	YES – UF Health stroke doctors care for approximately 1,000 stroke patients every year.	NO
Ability to treat multiple stroke patients at once.	YES – UF Health Shands Hospital is a large level 1 trauma center, with multiple emergency rooms for stroke patients and multiple operating suites for stroke procedures.	NO
Large team of stroke neurologists and stroke neurosurgeons capable of handling high volumes of stroke patients.	YES – The UF Health dedicated stroke team includes stroke neurologists, stroke neurosurgeons, many specialty-trained critical care doctors and physician assistants, multiple neuroradiologists, emergency nurses and other specialists.	NO
Doctors and nurses on the team have specialty training to care for stroke patients.	YES – UF Health stroke doctors and nurses complete ongoing stroke training every year so they have the newest skills to care for stroke patients.	NO
High-tech imaging equipment that allows doctors to offer more treatment options.	YES – UF Health stroke doctors have access to the most advanced equipment to make better-informed decisions about patient care.	NO
Evaluation by a stroke neurologist within 15 minutes of arrival to the hospital.	YES – The average time it takes for a stroke patient to be seen by a stroke doctor is less than five minutes.	NO
Stroke neurologists and stroke neurosurgeon available on-site 24/7.	YES – At UF Health, a neurologist and neurosurgeon are on-site 24/7.	NO
Publish patient outcomes, treatment speed and complication rates.	YES – UF Health stroke coordinators gather information on every stroke case, analyze it and share it with The Joint Commission. Treatment results are available for the public.	NO
Large neurointensive care unit with 24-hour care by neurocritical care doctors.	YES – UF Health Shands Hospital has one of the largest neurointensive care units in the country. Neurocritical care doctors and specialty-trained nurses provide 24-hour intensive care for stroke patients recovering from stroke.	NO
Post-discharge continuity of care follow-up.	YES – The UF Health stroke team sees each and every patient after discharge, during an aftercare appointment. This helps make sure treatment is successful and is a step toward preventing a future stroke from occurring.	NO



## UF HEALTH SHANDS COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTER

If you are experiencing signs of a stroke, call 911 and ask to be sent to UF Health Shands Hospital.

[UFHealth.org/stroke](http://UFHealth.org/stroke)