

Excellence in Stroke Care: Geisinger Leads the Way in Northeast and Central Pennsylvania

At Geisinger, we are proud to deliver world-class stroke care that saves lives and improves outcomes for patients across Northeast and Central Pennsylvania. Our two Comprehensive Stroke Centers (CSCs) — Geisinger Medical Center in Danville and Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre — are certified by The Joint Commission, meeting the highest standards for stroke treatment. These elite designations reflect our ability to treat the most complex stroke cases with:

- 24/7 access to specialized cerebrovascular neurosurgeons
- Neuroscience intensive care units
- Advanced imaging technologies
- Rapid access to clot-busting treatments and mechanical thrombectomy
- Robust rehabilitation and recovery programs

Nationally Recognized for Excellence

Geisinger's commitment to excellence has earned prestigious recognition from the American Heart Association's Get with the Guidelines® program, which honors hospitals that consistently follow the most up-to-date, evidence-based treatment protocols for stroke care.

In 2025, our Comprehensive Stroke Centers received the following awards:

Geisinger Medical Center – Danville, PA

- Stroke Gold Plus
- Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite
- Advanced Therapy Award
- Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center – Wilkes-Barre, PA

- Stroke Gold Plus
- Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite
- Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

These awards reflect our dedication to delivering high-quality, guideline-driven care that improves patient outcomes and reduces disability.

Comprehensive Stroke Care Across the System

Geisinger's stroke program extends beyond our comprehensive stroke centers, forming a robust network of care across the region. Our primary stroke centers, including Geisinger Community Medical Center, Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, Geisinger Jersey Shore Hospital, and Geisinger Medical Center Muncy, have also been recognized by the American Heart Association for their excellence in stroke care, achieving Gold Plus each year.

At Geisinger, we also offer:

- Telestroke services for real-time remote stroke evaluations
- Inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services
- Research-driven care that helps patients recover with fewer disabilities
- Integrated academic health system combining research, education, and clinical excellence

Why Choose Geisinger?

- Certified by The Joint Commission for meeting rigorous standards in stroke care
- Award-winning care is backed by national organizations
- Collaborative, multidisciplinary teams including neurologists, therapists, and rehabilitation specialists
- Systemwide stroke leadership driving innovation and quality improvement
- Convenient locations throughout Northeast and Central Pennsylvania for accessible, high-quality care
- Commitment to community health through education, prevention, and recovery support

Stroke Treatment Outcomes at Geisinger: Transparency, Safety, and Excellence

At Geisinger, we believe in transparency and accountability when it comes to patient care. As part of our commitment to excellence, we publicly report key performance data for stroke treatments performed at our Comprehensive Stroke Centers in Danville and Wilkes-Barre.

IV Thrombolytic Therapy (Tenecteplase)

Tenecteplase (TNKase) is a clot-busting medication used in eligible stroke patients to restore blood flow to the brain. While effective, it carries a small risk of bleeding in the brain (symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage).

National benchmark for symptomatic hemorrhage: Less than 6%

Geisinger's performance in 2024:

- **Geisinger Medical Center: 2.8%**
- **Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center: 4.3%**

National benchmark for symptomatic hemorrhage: Less than 6%

Geisinger's performance in 2025:

- **Geisinger Medical Center: 0%**
- **Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center: 0%**

These results demonstrate our strong adherence to safety protocols and excellent outcomes for patients receiving thrombolytic therapy.

Mechanical Thrombectomy

For patients with large vessel occlusion (LVO), mechanical thrombectomy is a life-saving procedure that removes the clot directly from the brain's blood vessels.

National benchmark for post-procedure bleeding: Around 7%

Geisinger's performance in 2024:

- **Geisinger Medical Center: 0%**
- **Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center: 6%**

National benchmark for post-procedure bleeding: Around 7%

Geisinger's performance in 2025:

- **Geisinger Medical Center: 4.2%**
- **Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center: 3.2%**

Our outcomes are in line with national standards.

Carotid Artery Surgery (CEA and CAS)

For patients with carotid artery disease, Geisinger offers carotid endarterectomy and stenting performed by expert vascular and neurosurgeons.

National benchmark for 30-day stroke or death rate: Less than 6% in symptomatic patients and less than 3% in asymptomatic patients.

Symptomatic Carotid Stenosis is diagnosed when a patient has experienced a recent (within 6 months) stroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA), retinal artery occlusion, or transient monocular blindness that can be attributed to the affected carotid artery.

Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis is identified when there is significant narrowing of the carotid artery without any history of stroke or TIA.

Geisinger's performance in 2024:

- **Geisinger Medical Center:** 1% Symptomatic; 0% Asymptomatic
- **Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center:** 1% Symptomatic; 3.3 % Asymptomatic

Geisinger's performance in 2025:

- **Geisinger Medical Center:** 6% Symptomatic; 0% Asymptomatic
- **Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center:** 4% Symptomatic; 2% Asymptomatic

These low complication rates reflect our surgical teams' precision and commitment to patient safety.

Why This Matters

These outcomes are more than numbers — they represent lives saved, disabilities prevented, and families preserved. At Geisinger, we're proud to offer stroke care that meets and often exceeds national benchmarks, backed by:

- Certified Comprehensive Stroke Centers
- Award-winning care from the American Heart Association
- Advanced imaging and treatment technologies
- Multidisciplinary stroke teams available 24/7