



*Dr. Karen Tom, along with Emergency Department personnel, performs in a stroke drill. These drills are completed on a regular basis to adhere to the Emergency Cardiac and Stroke (ECS) and other protocols.*

## Snoqualmie Valley Hospital is Part of New Statewide Care Coordination System

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recently implemented a care coordination plan creating an Emergency Cardiac and Stroke (ECS) care system. It is similar to the existing five level trauma system designation for state hospitals which has been in place since 1990.

To receive official categorization, hospitals must complete a rigorous application process and meet all the quality measures designated by the new system criteria. This new ECS system has 2 cardiac levels, and 3 stroke levels.

There are nine hospitals in Washington that have been awarded the Level 1 category for both cardiac and stroke care out of 72 hospitals

submitting information thus far. Level 1 designated hospitals are required to have a full range of specialists, such as neurosurgeons, cath labs, and highly sophisticated diagnostic equipment available 24/7.

**Call 911 if you or someone near you is experiencing symptoms of Heart Attack or Stroke.**

Snoqualmie Valley Hospital (SVH) has been awarded a Level II Cardiac Care, and a Level III Stroke Care category, under the new system. At these levels, emergency departments are required to have protocols in place and meet several performance

goals such as having EKG's completed within 10 minutes, and being able to transfer to a higher level of care for a heart attack within 30 minutes.

Not all of the state's 97 hospitals have completed the application process or satisfied all the quality measures required by this new system. DOH is working to get all the hospitals participating in the new ECS system.

"Snoqualmie Valley Hospital has effectively developed strong collaborative relationships with area hospitals to assure that patients receive the right care at the right time regardless of where that care occurs," said Rachel Weber, Director of Nursing at SVH. "Our goal through the process of obtaining Level II Cardiac and Level III Stroke categorization has been to improve the health and safety of our Community and to save lives."

The DOH's next step is to have all of the state's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers indicate how they will coordinate care based on the system's criteria. Fire departments around the state will be creating protocols for First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics, so that coordination of care is provided for all patients.

Please call 911 if you or someone near you is experiencing symptoms of Heart Attack or Stroke!



For Heart Attack and Stroke Symptoms Scan the QR Code or go to [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) and click on "The Warning Signs" in the red box on the right.