

## Appling Healthcare awarded for efforts to improve rural stroke care

People who live in rural communities live an average of three years fewer than urban counterparts and have a 40% higher likelihood of developing heart disease and face a 30% increased risk for stroke mortality — a gap that has grown over the past two decades.<sup>3,4</sup> Appling Healthcare is committed to changing that.

For efforts to optimize stroke care and eliminate rural health care outcome disparities, Appling Healthcare has received the American Heart Association's [Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Rural Recognition](#) Bronze award.

The award recognizes hospitals for their efforts toward acute stroke care excellence demonstrated by composite score compliance to guideline-directed care for intravenous thrombolytic therapy, timely hospital inter-facility transfer, dysphagia screening, symptom timeline and deficit assessment documentation, emergency medical services communication, brain imaging and stroke expert consultation.

<sup>3</sup> American Heart Association. American Heart Association issues call to action for addressing inequities in rural health. February 10, 2020. <https://newsroom.heart.org/news/american-heart-association-issues-call-to-action-for-addressing-inequities-in-rural-health>; American Heart Association. Public Health AmeriCorps to address health inequity in rural communities. April 6, 2022. <https://newsroom.heart.org/news/public-health-americorps-to-address-health-inequity-in-rural-communities>.

<sup>4</sup> Harrington R, et al. Call to Action: Rural Health: A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. *Circulation*. 2020;141:e615–e644.

