

2011 TENET HEROES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

DEBBIE CAMP, RN

STROKE COORDINATOR



Debbie Camp is passionate about educating the public and collaborating with other professionals to provide the best care for patients at Atlanta Medical Center and throughout Georgia. She exemplifies the traits of a true patient advocate. She is enthusiastic, energetic, articulate, creative and results-oriented.



Debbie is one of seven founding members of the Georgia Stroke Professional Alliance, a collaborative, statewide network that provides educational support for those who care for stroke patients by sharing resources, professional experience, clinical expertise and process improvement. Since Debbie has been chairperson, the group has grown to 135 members representing 54 hospitals and organizations. This group is having a positive impact on the care of stroke patients in Georgia, providing stroke education to community members and clinical professionals. Under Debbie's leadership, the group has contributed

to 28 Georgia hospitals receiving Primary Stroke Center of Excellence certification or recertification.

In addition to community and statewide outreach through EMS inservices and speaking engagements, Debbie has worked tirelessly to improve the care of stroke patients who come to Atlanta Medical Center. Thanks to Debbie's leadership, patients who need the clot-busting drug tPA receive it 97.3 percent of the time at Atlanta Medical Center versus 74.2 percent at other *Get With The Guidelines*SM hospitals. The hospital also excels at starting tPA within 60 minutes (73.1 percent versus 28.5 percent at other *Get With The Guidelines*SM hospitals). Because of her efforts to ensure that each patient receives evidence-based care, Atlanta Medical Center has received the 2010 American Heart Association Gold Plus Award for Stroke and is on the National Target: Stroke Honor Roll – a distinction only about a dozen hospitals nationwide can claim. Her efforts have contributed to improving the hospital's reputation as a stroke provider, and the results are in – the hospital achieved a 9 percent growth in stroke volume in 2009 and 2010.

In the busyness of overseeing the stroke program, it would be easy for many to overlook the individual patient – but not Debbie, for whom patient-centered care is the primary focus. Recently, a patient left Atlanta Medical Center without the prescription necessary for physical and occupational therapy, which is essential to a patient's recovery. On a Friday afternoon, Debbie drove to the patient's house with the prescription for the required outpatient therapy. This personalized care is what makes Debbie so special to Atlanta Medical Center and to her patients.

For many, the stroke coordinator position would be their job; for Debbie, it is a calling. She is passionate about educating the public and collaborating with other professionals to provide the best possible care for the patients at Atlanta Medical Center and beyond. Her dedication to the community, the patients and their families, the hospital's staff and physicians has made a positive impact in improving stroke care in the community. Debbie's insight in providing quality care to stroke patients within the golden hour and her efforts in educating health care workers and the community are reasons that she is a Tenet Hero.