

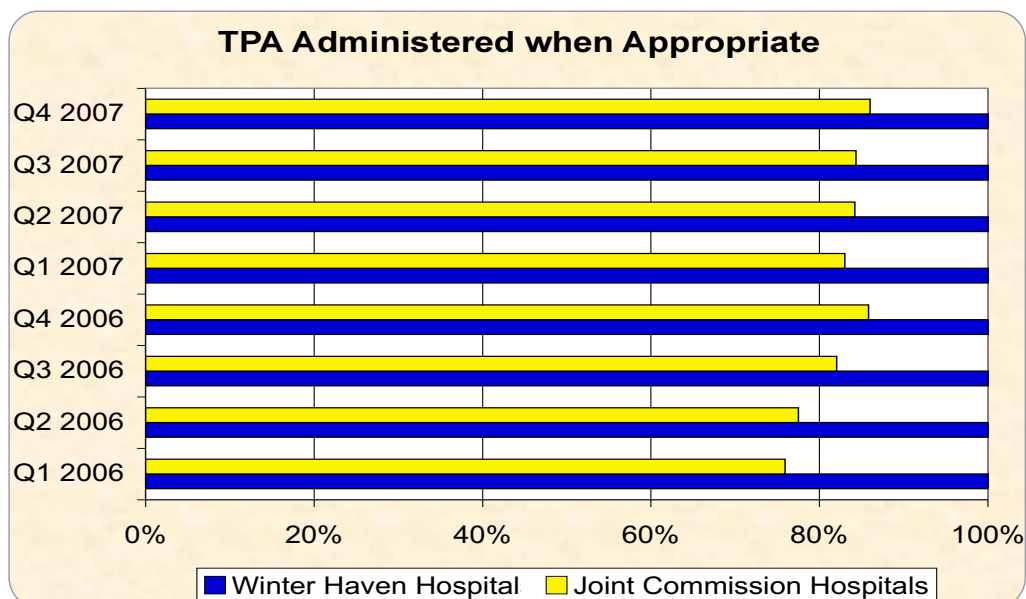
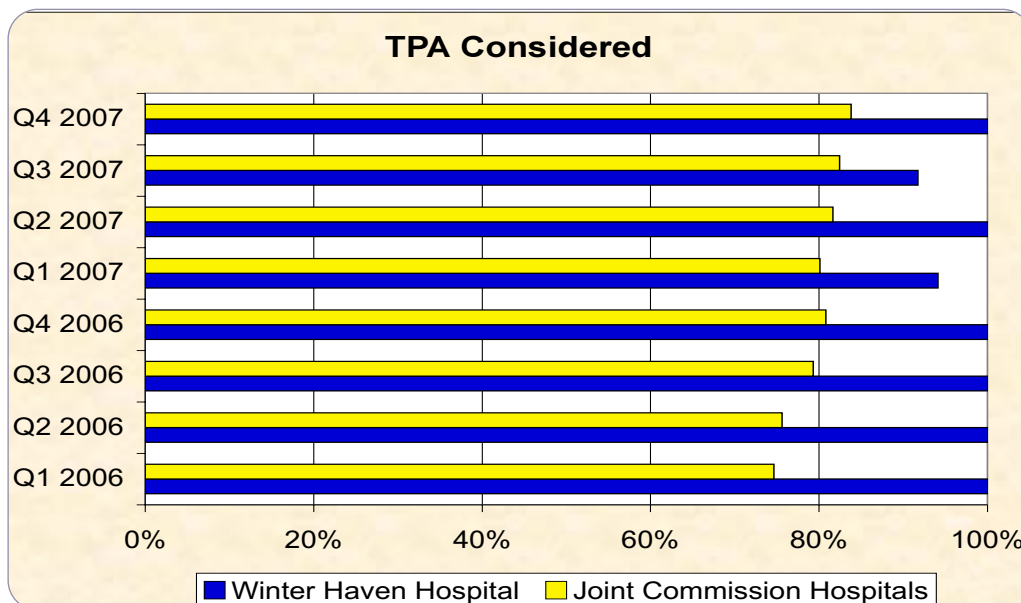
7. Joint Commission Recognized Stroke Program

Winter Haven Hospital has been the first and only Joint Commission recognized Primary Stroke Center in Polk, Highlands, and Hardee Counties since January 1, 2006.

Our goals are to:

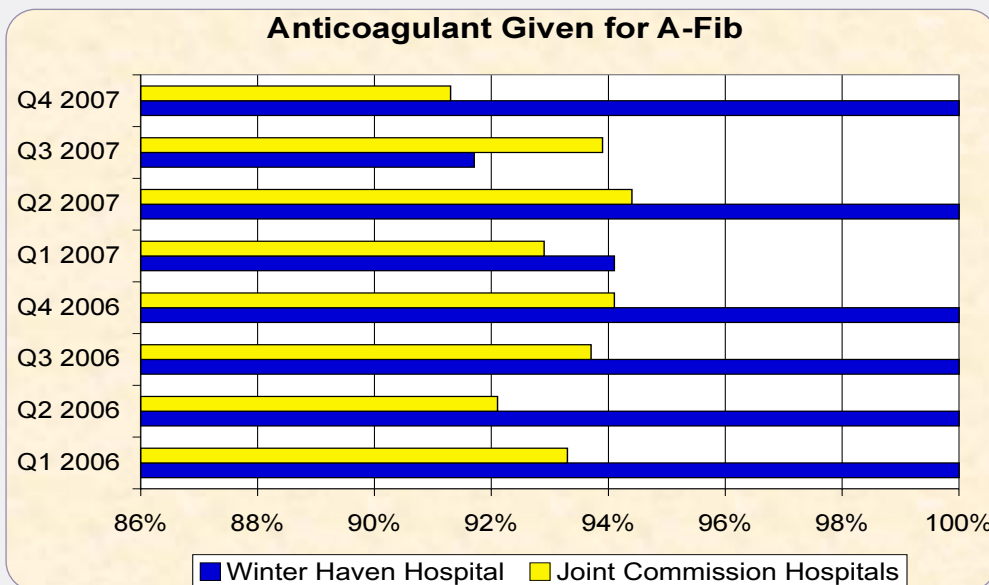
- educate people in order to prevent strokes
- provide exceptional rapid intervention
- reduce disabilities from stroke by 30%.

When a patient presents with stroke symptoms, a “stroke alert” is called. The Stroke Alert Response Team determines the time lapse since the symptoms began and puts the testing process in action. Even if the 3 hour window for giving thrombolytics has passed, it is important to determine the cause of the stroke so it can be treated and future strokes prevented.



Our team of Physical & Occupational Therapists and Speech & Language Pathologists begin a rehabilitation program early in a patient's hospitalization to work on regaining speech and/or movement. Stroke recovery is a team effort involving the patient, family, and staff. It continues even after discharge with the needed services provided from the Joy-Fuller Rehabilitation Center staff and our Out-Patient Rehabilitation services, including the Esteem Program and Stroke Support Group.

The efforts of a large interdisciplinary team have made the development and continued success of this organization and community-wide program a reality. Strict adherence to research-based standards must be maintained for certification. The Stroke Center received national recognition in the July 2007 issue of *U.S. News and World Report* for excellence in stroke care; we achieved higher than 85% in all the American Stroke Association Standards of Practice. The Joint Commission surveyor who reviewed our program in December 2007 reported "no recommendations for improvement." As Polk County's only certified Primary Stroke Center, Winter Haven Hospital has met all the high standards necessary to be the very best in stroke care.



Strategies Targeted Against Readmission (S.T.A.R.) Nurses perform discharge education to all stroke patients in order to promote their continued rehabilitation and wellness program after they leave the hospital.

