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North Carolina Stroke Association Awards First Grants to Two Hospitals as part of its *Time is Brain, Time for Change* Initiative to Improve Statewide Access to Stroke Care

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (Oct. 4, 2017) — The North Carolina Stroke Association (NCSA), based in Winston-Salem, announces that **Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton, N.C.** and **Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie, N.C.** are the first grant recipients of its *Time is Brain, Time for Change* initiative. This program aims to ensure that every North Carolinian has access to timely, state-of-the-art stroke care no matter where they happen to be, across the state.

Vidant Chowan and Vidant Roanoke-Chowan hospitals are both pursuing Acute Stroke Ready certification by the Joint Commission, and the grants from the NC Stroke Association will help fund programs required for certification. Enabling more hospitals to become certified will improve the likelihood of stroke victims receiving critical care within the optimal three-hour time frame in which hospitals can administer critical clot-busting drugs.

“We are so pleased to provide this funding to Vidant Chowan Hospital and Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital,” said NCSA executive director Beth Parks. “Both hospitals serve critical areas in eastern North Carolina, a region that records some of the highest stroke death rates in the country, yet has significant gaps in access to certified stroke care.”

Statewide, of the 41 hospitals certified as Acute Stroke Ready, Advanced Primary Stroke Care or Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Centers, only five are located in the eastern portion of the state. Vidant Chowan and Vidant Roanoke-Chowan both hope to achieve Acute Stroke Ready certification in 2018.

“The NC Stroke Association is working to reduce the disparities in access to certified stroke care across the state,” said Parks. “We will continue to raise monies for the *Time is Brain, Time for Change* initiative so that we can support more hospitals in pursuing Acute Stroke Ready certification, and realize our vision of every stroke patient in our state receiving timely access to stroke care.”

About the N.C. Stroke Association

*The North Carolina Stroke Association is a 501 (c) 3 organization founded in 1998 by a group of physicians and lay people who saw the need to address the state’s increasing prevalence of stroke and its attendant disabilities. With operational seed money from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, NCSA began to fulfill its mission to reduce the **incidence** and **impact** of stroke in North Carolina through collaborations to facilitate **screening, education, outcome assessments and advocacy**. For more information, visit www.ncstroke.org.*

About Vidant Health

Vidant Health is a mission-driven, 1,447-bed health system that annually serves more than 1.4 million people in 29 eastern North Carolina counties. The not-for-profit system is made up of 12,000 employees, eight hospitals, home health, hospice, wellness centers, and Vidant Medical Group, a multi-specialty physician and provider group with more than 420 providers in more than 80 practice sites in eastern North

Carolina. Vidant is affiliated with The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. As a major resource for health services and education, Vidant has a mission to improve the health and well-being of eastern North Carolina. For more information, visit www.vidanthealth.com.