When it comes to stroke, “time is brain.” Following a stroke, millions of nerve cells die every minute. Delays in treatment can be devastating. Stroke is a leading cause of death and long-term disability in the United States. Rapid evaluation is crucial for optimizing outcomes for stroke patients. Unfortunately, most communities don’t have access to 24-hour vascular neurology expertise.

The Petznick Stroke Center at Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center is working to change that through the Barrow Telestroke Program. Telestroke technology enables vascular neurologists to perform physical and neurological examinations via video and review medical imaging remotely. The neurologist can determine the type of stroke and recommend the best course of treatment, and assist in initiating treatment and transferring the patient to a higher level of care when appropriate. This service vastly expands the opportunity for treating stroke patients, improving outcomes and saving lives.

The Barrow Difference

The Petznick Stroke Center is a Joint Commission-certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, with additional accolades including a 2023 Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award and a Target: Stroke Honor Roll Award from the American Heart/American Stroke Association.

With support from Dignity Health Southwest Division Transfer Center and Barrow Neurological Institute, our Telestroke Program offers around-the-clock access to subspecialty board-certified neurologists for hospital-based emergency departments and freestanding emergency rooms. Our partner facilities can connect to our on-call specialist at any time, who will assess patients and review their brain imaging results immediately after completion.

Barrow Telestroke services utilize cutting-edge technology and provide ongoing educational support for both internal and external users. We pursue regular data and case review discussions to ensure that up-to-date best practices are part of the provider and patient experience.