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# Millard Fillmore to serve as hub for stroke care

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Stroke patients at **Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center** and other hospitals will be the beneficiary of a new program linked to **Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital**.

On Thursday officials from the state **Department of Health** formally introduced what's called a telemedicine initiative. It will allow neurosurgeons at Millard Fillmore's stroke care center to provide real-time consultation and treatment for patients under care at Memorial's emergency unit.

The program, to go live between the two hospitals in October, will utilize a Webcam enabling physicians at the Buffalo hospital to see stroke patients. It is modeled after a similar venture in Georgia known as "REACH," or Remote Evaluation of Acute Ischemic Stroke.

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical and Kaleida Health, which operates Millard Fillmore Hospital, purchased the necessary equipment to establish the partnership.

"Niagara County has the highest cardiovascular disease mortality rate in New York (state) and one of the highest in the United States," said Joseph Ruffolo, president and CEO of the Niagara Falls hospital. "As soon as we heard about Reach, we knew the Greater Niagara region would benefit in a big way from Memorial's participation in this lifesaving effort."

Millard Fillmore will eventually serve as a hub for several other outlying hospitals in Western New York in Wellsville, Olean, Gowanda, Dunkirk, Cuba, Irving, Westfield, Newfane and Warsaw. Additional medical centers across the state will also join the program.

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