

Rural Hospital Stroke Improvement Project

Program Description

The Rural Hospital Stroke Improvement Project will focus on reducing stroke morbidity and mortality through the implementation of the Brain Attack Coalition standards of care. The project will include education regarding the scientific evidence and best practices. Each participating hospital will receive one year of free access to the Get With the Guidelines online patient management tool, which includes new consensus measures endorsed by the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission and the Centers for Disease Control to align national efforts to improve stroke care. In addition, we will explore the role of the rural hospital in the movement towards a statewide Stroke System of Care.

Why Should My Hospital Participate in This Stroke Project?

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States when considered independently from other cardiovascular disease.

Approximately 700,000 Americans have a new or recurrent stroke each year. Stroke also remains a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.

Major advances have been made during the past decade in stroke prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Despite these improvements, significant obstacles remain in consistently translating these evidence-based standards of care into practice. Technology, including telemedicine, is one way organizations are redesigning their system of care to meet these challenges.

The American Stroke Association recently released recommendations for the establishment of Stroke Systems of Care in every state. Many Wisconsin hospitals are already preparing for this transition. It is critical that every Wisconsin hospital, regardless of location or size, be part of this movement to ensure access to the highest possible stroke care in every Wisconsin community.

Who Should be Part of the Hospital Team?

Each participating hospital should designate a team leader, as well as other core team members that can attend each session and guide changes within the hospital and community. It is recommended that a physician be a member of the core team to facilitate peer conversation, but this is not required to participate. Suggested members of the core team:

- Quality improvement
- Nursing
- Physician (i.e. medical director, department chair, ER physician, neurologist, radiologist, primary care)
- Emergency department
- Radiology
- Speech/OT/PT/rehab
- Pharmacy
- Staff/patient education
- CEO/senior staff

You are encouraged to add others to your team as supporting members, as needed.

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Schedule of Activities

Nov. - Dec. 2007:	Hospital recruitment and registration
December 2007:	Set up and training on the Get With the Guidelines (GWTG) patient management tool
December 2007:	Teleconference meeting for team leaders to review project (approximately 1 hour)
January 2008:	Learning Session #1: a full-day, on-site session for all team members (location TBD)
March 2008:	Teleconference meeting for all enrolled hospitals
April 2008:	Teleconference meeting for all enrolled hospitals
May 2008:	Teleconference meeting for all enrolled hospitals
June 2008:	Learning Session #2 and Celebration: a full-day, on-site session for all team members (location TBD)

Data Expectations

Data will be collected by each hospital using the GWTG patient management tool during the project. A blinded, aggregate comparison of participating hospitals will be provided to each participant to measure improvements in care.

Participation Cost

There are no program costs to hospitals that choose to participate in the Rural Hospital Stroke Project. In addition, each participating hospital will receive one year of free access to the GWTG patient management tool (a \$550 value). All expenses, other than hospital staff and internal resources used for improvement, will be covered by the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health - Flex Grant Program.

How to Enroll

Complete the attached enrollment form, including a signature from the organization's CEO/Administrator, and return it to WHA by December 11, 2007.

Additional Information Needed?

For more information about this project, contact Dana Richardson at 608-274-1820 or drichardson@wha.org or Michelle Gardner at 414-227-1411 or Michelle.Gardner@heart.org.

For questions regarding completion of the enrollment form, contact Lisa Geishirt at 608-274-1820 or lgeishirt@wha.org.

Project brought to you by:

American Heart Association
Wisconsin Hospital Association



Project funded by:

Wisconsin Office of Rural Health



Enrollment Form

Rural Hospital Stroke Improvement Project

Enrollment Form Due: Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Fax your completed enrollment form to 608-274-8554, Attn: Lisa Geishirt, Wisconsin Hospital Association

YES, my hospital would like to participate in the Rural Hospital Stroke Improvement Project.

By the signature below, we agree to enter patient data into the Get With the Guidelines Patient Management Tool. We allow the Wisconsin Hospital Association access to de-identified data in coordination with the American Stroke Association.

CEO/Administrator Name _____

Signature _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Project Team Leader Name _____

Team Leader Title _____

Team Leader Email _____

Team Leader Phone _____

Team Leader Fax _____

Other core team member names and titles:

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone _____