

# Acute Stroke Protocol

## WALK-IN Transfer Protocol of Acute Stroke TPA Candidates Transfer to: The Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus



### The Ottawa Hospital, General Campus Emergency Department:

- Triage Nurse:** → Alerts Emergency Physician of possible diagnosis of acute stroke
- Emergency Physician:** → **Confirms criteria for Acute Stroke Diagnosis are met, including Time of Onset**

#### Inclusion Criteria

Transport to a Designated Stroke Centre will be considered for patients who:

- Present with a **sudden new onset** of at least one of the following symptoms suggestive of the onset of an acute stroke:
  - Unilateral arm/leg weakness or drift
  - Speech difficulty or abnormality

**AND**

Can be transported to arrive at a Designated Stroke Centre **within 3.5 hours of a clearly determined time of symptom onset** or the time the patient was “last seen in a usual state of health”.

#### Exclusion Criteria

Any of the following conditions exclude a patient from being transported under the Acute Stroke Protocol:

- Mild or resolving symptoms of stroke (**CALL** receiving physician if unsure).
- Blood sugar < 3 mmol/L
- <18 years old, please see below<sup>1</sup>.

**No CT Required**

**Steps 1A and 1B to be completed in parallel as to avoid unnecessary delay of transfer of patient.**

#### Step 1A

##### Notification of Stroke Physician and Receiving ED

- Physician calls regional stroke centre telecommunications department for STAT connection to Stroke Neurologist when a patient meets the “Acute Stroke Protocol” criteria above.
- Stroke Neurologist may refuse transfer if the patient is not a candidate for thrombolysis.
- Stroke Neurologist will advise receiving ED triage of patient transfer and to call a ‘Stroke Code’ upon the patients’ arrival, and notify the receiving ED Physician if the patient is unstable.
- Phone: 613-798-5555 ext. 15555  
(page STAT to Neurologist on call to indicate possible stroke code for transfer)

#### Step 1B

##### Ambulance Notification

Call Ambulance Communications to request an “Emergency Transfer” for a patient that meets the “Acute Stroke Protocol”. CACC/ACS will not delay transport when notified of the patient’s need for redirect or transport under the “Acute Stroke Protocol”. As time permits contact PTAC at 1-866-869-7822 and obtain MT number. **DO NOT DELAY TRANSFER** to obtain MT number, patient may be sent without it. As soon as the MT# is available it is to be provided to the Ambulance Communications Centre with any additional patient information that may have been omitted from the original request for service.

#### Step 2

If the patient’s witness cannot accompany the patient in the ambulance, then ensure the witness is continuously available by telephone. The receiving stroke centre will contact them to confirm time of onset and obtain consent. **Send the phone number / contact information with the patient.**

#### Step 3

Ensure transfer note includes: time of onset, glucometer reading, vital signs and a brief documentation of neurological deficits.

#### (Endnotes)

1. For pediatric patients 0-18y with acute onset of possible acute stroke who are hemodynamically **stable and alert**, please call **CHEO Emergency (613) 737-2328 and immediately press 1** to reach the department. Ask to speak with the Emergency Department physician immediately regarding “acute stroke”. The ED physician will accept the patient and coordinate imaging/assessment by neurology as necessary.

For pediatric patients 0-18y who are **unstable** (obtunded, requiring intubation or hemodynamic support, progressive/evolving symptoms), please call **Criticall Ontario (1-800-668-4357)** to be connected with the CHEO PICU physician. They will advise you on management and arrange to accept the patient to the ED or PICU, as appropriate.

2. **Champlain LHIN Patient Flow Policy: Addressing Coordination and Expectations for Access Policy, 2010.**

\*Please Note: If the patient does not require thrombolysis or care in a tertiary care setting, the patient will be transferred back to the sending hospital as per the Champlain LHIN Patient Flow Policy<sup>2</sup>.

\*\*Please Note: Any relevant information may be faxed to The Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus Emergency Department at: 613-761-4749 (Fax)