



# **DECISION ALGORITHM FOR ACUTE STROKE CODE**

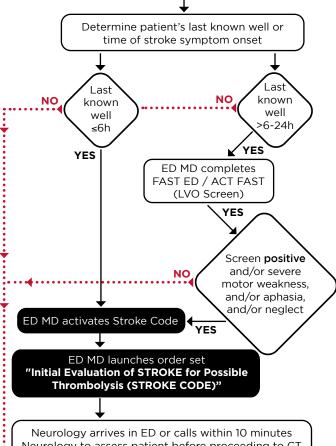
TOH CIVIC - EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE: To support the Emergency Department and Stroke Team in: 1) the immediate assessment of a patient presenting with possible stroke, (2) the Stroke Code process, and (3) the potential treatment of a stroke patient.

Patient is presenting with a sudden onset of focal neurological deficits suggestive of an acute stroke with last known well of ≤24h

Triage Nurse notifies ED MD of possible stroke. RN prepares resuscitation Stroke Bay. ED MD immediately assesses patient's baseline function status\*.

\*Patients with severe comorbidities, bed bound, or with severe pre-existing cognitive impairment to a degree where they cannot communicate or recognize family members are NOT candidates for EVT or thrombolysis Consult Neurology for uncertain cases



Neurology to assess patient before proceeding to CT

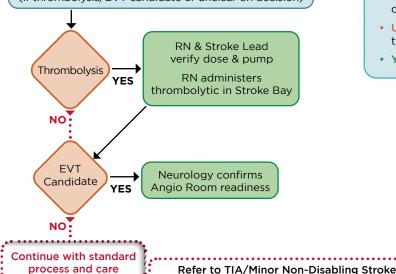
STROKE CODE PAUSE #1 (ED Resus Room Huddle)

CT/CTA/CTP RAPID

STROKE CODE PAUSE #2 (CT Room Huddle)

Patient will receive treatment YES/UNCLEAR

STROKE CODE PAUSE #3 (Stop in Stroke Bay) (if thrombolysis/EVT candidate or unclear on decision)



Outpatient Management Protocol, if appropriate

#### STROKE CODE PAUSE #1

ED RESUSCITATION ROOM HUDDLE - Facilitated by Stroke

## NAMES & ROLES: STROKE CODE LEAD SAYS IT LOUDLY

- Stroke Code LEAD: "I am the Sr Resident or Staff Neurologist. I will be the Stroke Code Lead. I will inform Primary ED RN of treatment decision and verify the dose and pump with Primary ED RN."
- Primary ED RN: "I am the Primary ED RN. I will provide nursing interventions, bring the stroke box and the IV pump."

#### SAFETY CHECKLIST: STROKE CODE LEAD SAYS IT LOUDLY

- AIRWAY Are we satisfied with the AIRWAY?
- IV ACCESS Do we have IV ACCESS?
- LABS Has BLOODWORK been ORDERED and SENT? 3.
- WEIGHT Do we have a WEIGHT?
- 5. CT - Has CT been ORDERED? Is CT READY? Which CT?
- STROKE BOX AND IV PUMP Do we have STROKE BOX and working IV PUMP?
- **IDENTIFICATION AND BELONGINGS Are ID STICKERS.** ARMBAND and BELONGINGS with patient?

# STROKE CODE PAUSE #2

CT ROOM HUDDLE

## WHEN PLAIN CT COMPLETES - LEAD SAYS IT LOUDLY

"Patient is not a bleed. We need to confirm patient's weight and dosage for thrombolysis in case we decide to treat."

"Patient is a bleed. We aren't going to treat with thrombolysis or EVT.

## STROKE CODE PAUSE #3

STOP IN STROKE BAY

## TREATMENT DECISION - LEAD SAYS IT LOUDLY

- No Treatment "We aren't going to treat with thrombolysis or EVT.
- Unclear "We are unsure whether we will proceed with treatment, Primary ED RN and patient can return to resus"
- Yes Treatment "We will be proceeding with ..."