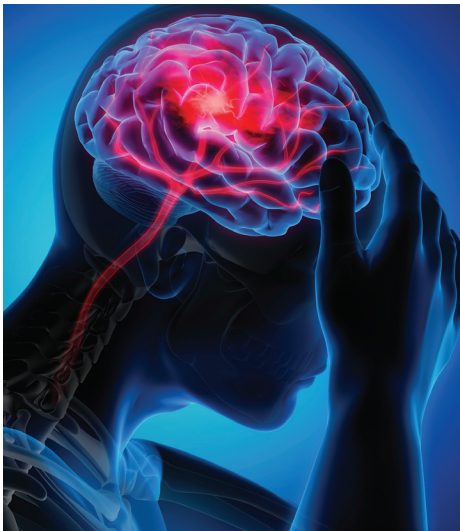


THE lamp LIGHTER

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Enhancing Stroke Patient Care



As Methodist Hospitals continues to fulfill its commitment to deliver exceptional care to stroke patients, it's imperative for nurses to understand their crucial role in upholding our Stroke Program's high standards.

Methodist Hospitals' Stroke Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC). Northlake boasts accreditation as a primary stroke center, while Southlake is a thrombectomy ready center.

"This recognition is evidence of Methodist Hospitals' dedication to maintaining high standards in stroke care," said Neuroscience Director, Sarah Baran. "And we're marking Stroke Awareness Month in May by reinforcing knowledge and practices among our nurses to ensure that everyone is aligned with the program's goals."

A Guide for Methodist Hospitals Nurses

NIH Stroke Scale Assessment:

Nurses play a pivotal role in completing the NIH Stroke Scale assessment for stroke patients upon admission. This internationally recognized rating scale helps gauge the severity of stroke symptoms and guides treatment decisions.

PHQ-9 Assessment:

Another critical responsibility is conducting a PHQ-9 assessment for depression and anxiety screening. It must be completed by day three of a patient's stay or prior to discharge. Identifying mental health concerns early enables timely intervention and promotes better patient outcomes.

Dysphagia Screening:

Nurses are tasked with performing dysphagia screening to assess a patient's ability to swallow safely. This screening is vital before administering medication or allowing the patient to eat or drink. Any indication of swallowing difficulties warrants immediate consultation with speech therapy to prevent complications.

"Maintaining high standards in stroke care is paramount, given the prevalence of stroke in the communities we serve," said Stroke Coordinator, Patrick O'Brien, RN. "Lake County has the highest rate of stroke hospitalizations in the entire state, which underscores the critical need for exemplary stroke care."

"By adhering to prescribed protocols and remaining vigilant in their responsibilities, our nurses contribute

Documentation and Education:

Nurses must ensure thorough documentation of patient education and care plans, with specific focus on stroke management. Educational resources, such as stroke education booklets, are available to support nurses as you educate patients and families.

For ease with documentation, the required assessments are located within the ED Navigator under "stroke tab" and within the stroke flowsheet for inpatient staff.

Continuous Learning:

Methodist Hospitals encourages nurses to engage in ongoing education and training related to stroke care. Completing assigned learning modules and utilizing tip sheets provided by the Stroke Program team help enhance nursing competency and promote best practices.

significantly to the Methodist's overarching mission of improving patient outcomes and reducing the burden of stroke in Northwest Indiana," Baran added.

Nurses seeking additional information or support to deliver quality stroke care are encouraged to connect with Patrick O'Brien, our stroke coordinator at both campuses, via email at pbrien@methodisthospitals.org, or via secure text.

Patient Throughput Guidelines: Emergency Department (ED) to Inpatient Status

Medical Surgical Patients

ED to coordinate with Bed Placement and House Manager for patient placement

- Within 15 minutes of bed assignment:
 - ED to make a phone call to the unit for verbal handoff.
 - If unsuccessful, repeat the call in 15 minutes (total of 2 attempts).
 - If phone handoff fails after 2 attempts, ED to transport patient to unit.
- If unable to give verbal handoff, ED to communicate equipment needs (IV pump, O2 gauge, etc.) to CNA/NA/HUP upon patient arrival or via phone.
- Accepting unit to make efforts for peer-to-peer handoff completion.
- ED responsibilities upon patient transport include swap IV pumps, apply O2 if needed, raise side rails, ensure call light accessibility, activate bed alarm.
- Before leaving unit, ED must speak with CNA/RN regarding patient placement and completed safety precautions.
- CNA/RN responsibilities:
 - Visually assess patient immediately for safety.
 - Complete vital signs within 30 minutes of arrival.
 - Perform head-to-toe assessment within 4 hours.
- Bedside RN to review EPIC SBAR report and contact ED for clarification if needed.

Medical Telemetry/IMCU Patients

ED to coordinate with Bed Placement and House Manager.

- Within 15 minutes of bed assignment:
 - ED to make a phone call to unit for verbal handoff.
 - If unsuccessful, repeat the call in 15 minutes (total of 2 attempts).
- If phone handoff fails after 2 attempts, ED to transport patient to unit and provide bedside handoff to RN before returning to ED.
- Accepting unit to make efforts for peer-to-peer handoff completion.

ICU Patients

ED to phone ICU for handoff report before patient transport.

General Instructions:

- During shift change report periods, receiving RN to call ED for report before initiating patient care to streamline communication and avoid interruptions.
- Patient transfers will not occur during the 6:45-7:30 window.
- Suggestions for process improvement are welcomed. Email Mary Jo Valentine at mvalentine@methodisthospitals.org to join further discussions.

Saluting 2 Daisy Award Recipients

The Methodist Hospitals nursing department is proud to congratulate our two newest Daisy Award recipients:

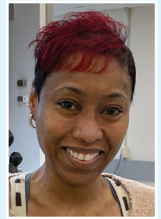
March 2024 - Kayla Eldridge, RN

An RN in the Orthopedic Inpatient Unit at Southlake, Kayla earns many compliments from her patients. She participates in nursing leadership councils and recently volunteered as her unit's wound champion, coming in on off days to treat patients' wounds and help co-workers with admission or discharge orders. Kayla has been nominated by patients and their families for multiple Daisy awards.



April 2024- Tameka Cook, RN

Within just one week, two separate Methodist Hospitals patients nominated Tameka for Daisy Award consideration. Both patients, who were cared for by Tameka on the 5 South unit at Northlake, praised her kindness and caring attitude. Tameka was also praised for her thorough approach to her job and her focus on meeting the needs of her patients.



Please join us in congratulating Kayla and Tameka.

A Brief Word About Parking...

Here's a friendly reminder that'll help keep our hospital running smoothly and efficiently. We understand you're always on the go, providing exceptional care to our patients. However, let's be sure to park in the right spots to keep everything flowing seamlessly.

Some of our amazing nurses are parking in areas designated for physicians, which can impact their ability to round early and perform procedures promptly.

Sometimes finding the perfect parking spot can be a challenge. But, by parking in Methodist employee lots, you're not only ensuring convenient access for yourself but also helping our physicians to maintain their schedules. Plus, it keeps the good vibes flowing throughout our hospital community!

PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH

- **Baby Wipes**
- **Cleaning Wipes**
- **Feminine Hygiene Products**
- **Paper Towels**
- **Facial Tissues**
- **Trash of ANY KIND**

