



Following the Yellow Brick Road: A Journey into Tele Stroke

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Background and Purpose:

As neuroscience nursing continues to evolve, accountability for treatment and patient outcomes is essential. All levels of neuroscience care providers must take a comprehensive approach to stroke care and work collectively in strengthening the stroke chain of survival. One recommendation for a Stroke Systems of Care model connects larger medical centers to community hospitals through a tele medicine network providing expertise and guidance to exemplary care. Stroke coordinators and neuroscience nurses are challenged with developing and implementing telestroke programs and producing early optimal outcomes. The purpose of this poster is to review the lessons learned by stroke coordinators at a large academic medical center and community hospital during the building phases.



The Journey:

Improving stroke care and outcomes are the empirical objectives in a telestroke partnership. Throughout the journey to accomplish pivotal goals, key components are vital to the success of the program.



Key Components:

- Strong rapport between champions at partner hospitals
- Establishment of a common vision
- Multidisciplinary unified team.
 - Nursing/Nursing leadership
 - Physicians
 - Informatics/IT
 - PACS administration
 - Administrative/Data Support
 - Credentialing and Regulatory experts
- A unique and individualized strategic project plan
- Ongoing and continuous education and support
- Case specific feedback and outcome sharing

Unexpected Obstacles:

Implementing a telestroke program presents dynamic obstacles and unexpected challenges, particularly lack of the resources listed below:

- Engagement from all levels of the multidisciplinary team
- A dedicated resource i.e. Stroke Coordinator/Project leader
- Committed IT team
- Credentialing bylaws and approvals
- Documentation
 - Duplication of documentation
 - Multiple EMR systems
- Data Collection
- Financial Challenges
 - Hard Cost
 - Soft Cost



Successes and Benefits:

- Create a true partnership between community hospitals and academic stroke center.
- Provide stroke expertise for ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke across the continuum of care.
- Create uniform stroke care treatment model.
- Provide pathways, protocols, and educational programs to enhance community hospital system's comfort level for all aspects of stroke care.
- 300% Increase the use of intravenous t-PA therapy.
- Transfer appropriate patients in a timely efficient manner. Majority of acute stroke patients stay at partner hospital.
- Improved staff satisfaction and comfort in early evaluation and acute stroke treatment.



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