# Lima Memorial Health System

## About Lima Memorial Health System

Lima Memorial Health System is a 300-bed hospital located in northeast Ohio. The team aimed to reduce door-to-needle (DTN) times and streamline their stroke alert process. With a collaborative approach to process improvement, the Lima team focused on timely administrations and best practice recommendations to optimize patient outcomes and quality metrics.

## The Challenge

There were variations in DTN times during 2024. The stroke program team evaluated the current stroke flow process and identified opportunities for improvement. Their goal was to adopt the nationally recommended best practices and time targets. Some of the issues of concern included timely neurology assessments, stroke alert activation, and thrombolytic administration times.

## The Solution

Based on the hospital's current stroke workflow, the following key strategies were identified:

o  Nurse engagement through recognition programs (Golden Brain pins, blue ribbons) and peer incentives for rapid thrombolytic delivery.

o  Early medication prep for thrombolytics and BP meds to streamline stroke alert treatment.

o  EMS collaboration to accelerate TS activations for BEFAST+ cases identified pre-hospital.

o  Nurse-led stroke alert activation based on neurological assessments.

o  Performance data sharing to boost team awareness and drive quality improvement.

o  Targeted training and feedback for nurses on early stroke symptom recognition, especially in triage.

o  Prioritized TS assessments with mini-neuro exams before imaging for likely thrombolytic candidates.

o  Standardized "pit stop" workflow including weight, labs, IV access, LTKW verification, and BP confirmation.
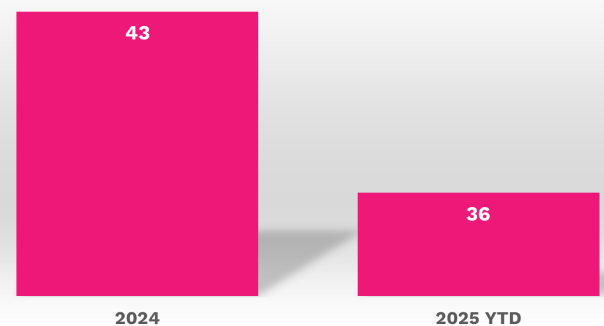
## Results

In addition to a 16% reduction in DTN average, this hospital also noted:

o  38% reduction in thrombolytic administration times

o  36% increase in DTN cases <45 minutes

o  24% reduction in DTN median between 2024 and YTD 2025

## The Takeaways

✓ In 2024, Lima Memorial Health System identified inconsistent door-to-needle times and delays in key stroke care steps, prompting a focused effort to align with national best practices.

✓ By partnering with us, the team enhanced their stroke workflow through nurse-led alert activations, EMS coordination, early medication prep, and data-driven feedback to improve speed and efficiency.

✓ These changes resulted in a 16% average DTN reduction, a 38% drop in thrombolytic administration times, and a 36% increase in cases achieving DTN under 45 minutes.

### DTN Average 2024-2025 YTD

| 2024 | 2025 YTD |
|------|----------|
| 43 | 36 |

### Average Thrombolytic Administration Times (Minutes)

| 2024 | 2025 YTD |
|------|----------|
| 13 | 8 |