



TeleSpecialists[®]

TRANSFORMATIVE TELEMEDICINE

Case Study



Bartow Regional Medical Center

About Bartow Regional Medical Center

Bartow Regional Medical Center (BRMC) is a 72-bed certified primary stroke center located in Bartow, Florida. BRMC has achieved certification through DNV, enhancing its capability to deliver high-quality stroke care.

The Challenge

Before partnering with TeleSpecialists, BRMC faced significant challenges in its stroke program. There were zero door-to-needle (DTN) administrations within 60 minutes, and EMS frequently bypassed the facility in favor of other stroke centers. At that time, BRMC held an Acute Stroke Ready certification, and there was a clear need for a more focused and structured stroke program. The median DTN time before the partnership was 65 minutes, indicating a gap in timely treatment for stroke patients.

The Solution

BRMC and TeleSpecialists collaborated to implement key initiatives to improve DTN times, including educating staff on the BEFAST stroke screening tool, empowering nurses to activate stroke alerts, and making thrombolytic medications overridable for faster administration. Placing a blood pressure machine in the CT scanner room enabled immediate assessments, and focused training ensured accurate patient weight for proper dosing. Mock stroke drills reinforced these changes, driving improved efficiency and patient care.

The Outcome

By collaborating with TeleSpecialists and focusing on systemic improvements, BRMC transformed its stroke program, demonstrating the impact of dedicated stroke care protocols and strategic partnerships.

- **Initial Success:** First thrombolytic administration under 60 minutes achieved in May 2023 with a time of 47 minutes.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Ended 2023 with a 42-minute DTN median; YTD 2024 median further reduced to 39 minutes, with a record-best DTN time of 21 minutes.
- **Certification and Collaboration:** Achieved Primary Stroke Certification through DNV and established partnerships with EMS to boost stroke program awareness.

The Takeaways

- ✓ Before partnering with TeleSpecialists, Bartow Regional Medical Center (BRMC) struggled with achieving timely stroke care, with zero DTN times under 60 minutes and EMS bypassing the facility.
- ✓ Just four days after partnering with us in May 2023, BRMC achieved its first thrombolytic administration within 60 minutes, reducing DTN times to 47 minutes and further improving to a YTD median of 39 minutes in 2024.
- ✓ BRMC earned Primary Stroke Certification through DNV, improved EMS collaboration, and implemented key initiatives that streamlined stroke care, positioning the hospital as a leader in stroke treatment.

Bartow Regional Medical Center DTN Median

