



HCA Doctors Hospital of Augusta

About HCA Doctors Hospital of Augusta

HCA Doctors Hospital of Augusta is a 350-bed full-service tertiary care center located in Augusta, Georgia. This hospital is a Certified Primary Stroke Center through The Joint Commission.

The Problem

There were inconsistencies and variations in the stroke alert process, leading to alteplase administration delays and door-to-needle (DTN) times above the 45-minute facility goal.

The Result

Our Quality Program Specialist worked collaboratively with various professionals in the hospital to identify areas of the stroke alert process that were leading to delays. Areas of common delays were streamlined using American Stroke Association best practice recommendations and our guidelines. The changes included:

- Consistent review and improvement on stroke alert pre-activation on EMS arrivals to our team. This enables the neurologist to be on camera when the patient arrives at the facility, allowing them to hear critical information from EMS and expedite patient care.
- The TeleStroke cart is now consistently being taken to CT to ensure that the neurologist can quickly assess and make decisions on treatment.
- The Radiology policy and procedure was updated to address that creatine results are not needed for critical alert stroke patients for CTA's (implemented Q3 2020).

The Takeaways

- ✓ The hospital started our TeleStroke service with the goal of improving DTN times
- ✓ Since going live, DTN medians have improved by 19%
- ✓ The implementation of our best practices have attributed to the success of the hospital's stroke program

