



Medical Center in Georgia

About This Medical Center

This medical center is a 115-bed facility located in Georgia. This hospital has a dedicated team focused on improving stroke care and door-to-needle (DTN) times.

The Problem

Inconsistency and variation in the stroke alert process led to alteplase administration delays and cases greater than the 45-minute or less facility goal.

The Result

Throughout 2020, monthly meetings were conducted with the facility's stroke quality team, our Quality Program Specialist, and our designated Regional Medical Director for this facility. They reviewed all alteplase outlier cases of 45-minutes or greater for opportunities for education and process improvement.

A comprehensive review of the current stroke process was completed, and areas of common delays were streamlined using our recommended best practices. These changes included:

- Consistent review and improvement on stroke alert pre-activation on EMS arrivals to TeleSpecialists
- Implemented a comprehensive stroke assessment tool (SAVES) to identify stroke symptoms inclusive of posterior signs and symptoms
- Increased the stroke alert activation window to 23 hours to include not only alteplase candidates, but interventional candidates for thrombectomy
- Implemented our alteplase pre-mixing tool (LB2S2) to assist staff in early identification of high likely alteplase candidates to improve verbal order to needle times
- Created a new inpatient stroke alert protocol to streamline identification and assessment of sudden onset stroke symptoms to result in nurse driven rapid placement of critical alert order sets and TeleNeurology assessment in CT per American Stroke Association and our best practice recommendations

The Takeaways

- ✓ The hospital committed to improving DTN times
- ✓ They completed a comprehensive data review with us, TeleSpecialists, to determine areas of improvement
- ✓ The average DTN time improved by 18.5%

Medical Center in Georgia Door-to-Needle Average

