

## Paramedic Prompt Card for Acute Stroke Protocol

This prompt card provides a quick reference of the *Acute Stroke Protocol* contained in the *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards* (BLS PCS). Please refer to the BLS PCS for the full protocol.

### Indications under the Acute Stroke Protocol

Redirect or transport to the **closest** Designated Stroke Centre\* will be considered for patients who meet **ALL** of the following:

1. Present with a new onset of at least one of the following symptoms suggestive of the onset of an acute stroke:
  - a. Unilateral arm/leg weakness or drift.
  - b. Slurred speech or inappropriate words or mute.
  - c. Unilateral facial droop.
2. Can be transported to arrive at a Designated Stroke Centre as follows:
  - a. if Endovascular Therapy (EVT) is not regionally available, within 4.5 hours of a clearly determined time of symptom onset or time the patient was last seen in his/her usual state of health; **OR**
  - b. if EVT is regionally available, within 6 hours of a clearly determined time of symptom onset or time the patient was last seen in his/her usual state of health.

\*A Designated Stroke Center is a Regional Stroke Centre, District Stroke Centre or a Telestroke Centre regardless of EVT capability.

### Contraindications under the Acute Stroke Protocol

ANY of the following exclude a patient from being transported under the Acute Stroke Protocol:

1. CTAS Level 1 and/or uncorrected airway, breathing or circulatory problem.
2. Symptoms of the stroke resolved prior to paramedic arrival or assessment\*\*.
3. Blood sugar <3 mmol/L\*\*\*.
4. Seizure at onset of symptoms or observed by paramedics.
5. Glasgow Coma Scale <10.
6. Terminally ill or palliative care patient.
7. Duration of out of hospital transport will exceed two hours.

\*\*Patients whose symptoms improve significantly or resolve during transport will continue to be transported to a Designated Stroke Centre.

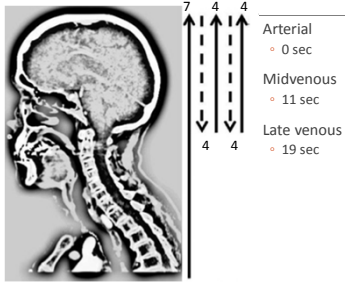
\*\*\* If symptoms persist after correction of blood glucose level, the patient is not contraindicated.

CACCI/ACS will authorize the transport once notified of the patient's need for redirect or transport under the Acute Stroke Protocol.

## "Clot Alert" Acute Stroke Protocol



## Multiphase CTA Imaging Protocol




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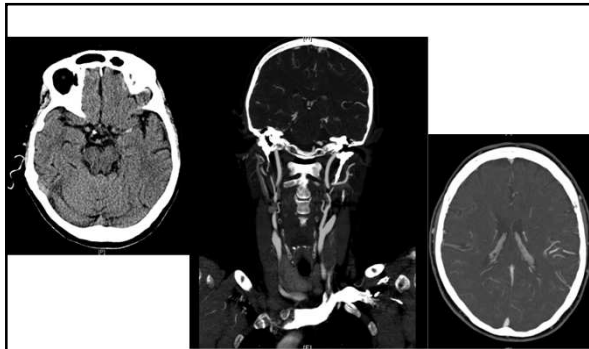
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CT Head, CT Angiogram (Arch to Vertex), Delayed Imaging

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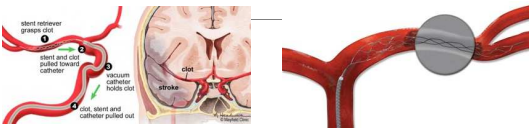
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## Clot Retrieval

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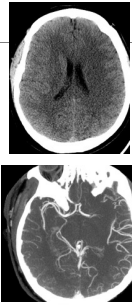
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### Who is Eligible?

- 20 % of stroke patients
- With or without IV-tPA
- Disabling stroke
- Stroke symptoms within 6 hours of time last seen normal
- Large blood vessel blockage with a reachable clot.
- Brain tissue that is still alive

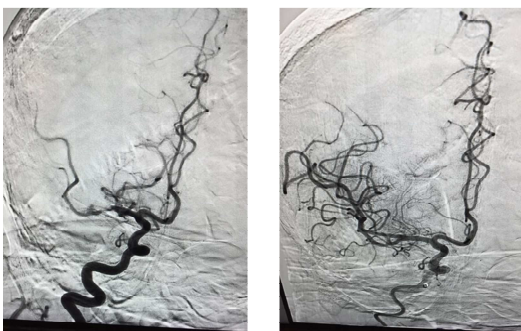
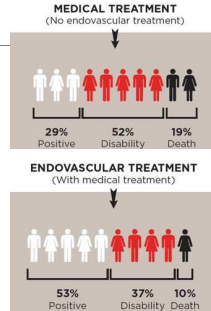


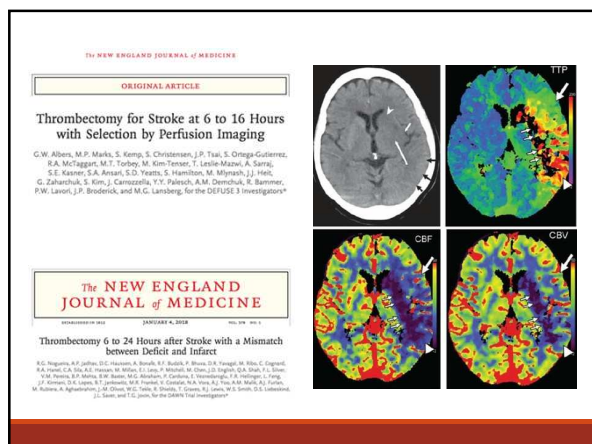
### Benefits of EVT

ARR = 23.7%

NNT = 4 (to live independently)

Risk of ICH = 3%





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# Hyperacute Stroke Management: The New Era

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## Objectives

After this session participants will be able to understand:

1. Time is Brain - The New Era
2. Identification of Patients for Stroke Transfer

## 3. The Important Role of the Paramedic at the Scene

4. The Factors that Improve Stroke Treatment Times
5. Improving Door in to Door Out Time

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## Paramedics Interpret Prompt Card with 98% Accuracy

**Impact of Expanding the Prehospital Stroke Bypass Time  
Window in a Large Geographic Region**

Ian G. Stiell, MD, MSc; Catherine M. Clement, RN; Kristy Campbell, PCP;  
Mukul Sharma, MD; Doug Socha, PCP, BSc, MA; Marco L.A. Sivilotti, MD, MSc;  
Albert Jin, MD; Jeffrey J. Perry, MD; Jim Lumsden, BScPT, MPA; Cally Martin, BScPT, MSc;  
Mark Froats, MD; Richard Dionne, MD; John Trickett, RN, BScN

**Background and Purpose**—The Ontario Acute Stroke Medical Redirect Paramedic Protocol (ASMRPP) was revised to allow paramedics to bypass designated stroke centers if total transport time would be <2 hours and total time from symptom onset <3.5 hours. We sought to evaluate the impact and safety of implementing the revised ASMRPP.

**Methods**—We conducted a 12-month implementation study involving prehospital paramedics presenting with possible stroke symptoms. A total of 1317 basic and advanced life support paramedics, of 914 services in 10 rural counties and 5 cities, used the Revised ASMRPP to take appropriate patients directly to 6 designated stroke centers.

**Results**—We enrolled 1277 patients with 98.8% paramedic compliance in form completion. Of these, 755 (61.2%) met the redirect criteria and had these characteristics: mean age 72.1 (range 16–101), male 51.1%, mean time scene to hospital 16.7 minutes (range 0–92). Paramedics demonstrated excellent interobserver agreement ( $\kappa$  0.94; 95% confidence interval, 0.91–0.96) and 97.9% accuracy in interpretation of the Revised ASMRPP. Prehospital adverse events occurred

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### and Pre-hospital Preparation

- Establish strong relationship with each paramedic service
- Early recognition; establish time last seen normal; prompt card
- **Pre-notification as soon as Paramedics go in service** notify receiving ER – arriving under *Acute Stroke Protocol X minutes out* (60% of our patients outside of Kingston)
- **Start 2 IVs if possible:**  
for ACP or for PCP trained in autonomous IV starts:
  - 1st in Right AC #18g (#20g min) - used for CT contrast dye
  - 2nd in Left arm above the hand - used for tPA
- **Second patch** 15 minutes out to give update to receiving facility (for those traveling a distance).




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### “Acute Stroke Protocol” ASP Activation Starts Pre-hospital

- ED Charge nurse/staff receives EMS call
- ED Charge/staff activates ASP through switchboard
- Switchboard activates calls to stroke team (neuro), CT, lab, registration, charge nurses etc
- Team gets ready based on ETA:
  - Stroke team prepares to meet patient/EMS on ED arrival
  - CT prepares for next on scan
  - ED Nurse readies portable monitor, IV/blood draw equipment, Stroke package




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## Upon arrival in ED

- Immediate registration
- CT notified of arrival
- Ambulance triage and rapid handover to Stroke team who meet patient at offload; **patient stays on EMS stretcher/monitor**
- Neuro performs NIHSS, may use POCT device
- Nurse starts IVs if not already started and draws blood – right side IV takes priority



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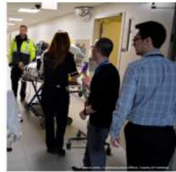
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## Move straight to CT within 5 mins Door to 1<sup>st</sup> CT slice: <10 mins

- Move patient to CT on EMS stretcher
- Nurse/team follow with:
  - ED stretcher
  - ED monitor
  - IV pump
  - Transport kit
  - tPA from Omnicell
  - Stroke package



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## Upon arrival in CT

- Neurologist initiates process for consent
- Entire team assists with transfer to CT table using transfer board; EMS monitor switched to ED transport monitor
- Patient prepared for CT
- EMS Report given to RN; Paramedics leave




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**Original Article**

**Improving Door-to-Needle Times for Acute Ischemic Stroke**  
**Effect of Rapid Patient Registration, Moving Directly to Computed Tomography, and Giving Alteplase at the Computed Tomography Scanner**

Noreen Kamal, PhD, PEng; Jessalyn K. Holodinsky, MSc; Caroline Stephenson, RN; Devika Kashayp, BA; Andrew M. Demchuk, MD, FRCP; Michael D. Hill, MD; Renee L. Vilneff, BNSc, MN, RN; Erin Bugbee, BScN, RN; Charlotte Zerna, MD, MSc; Nancy Newcommon, RN, MN, NP; Eddy Lang, MD; Darren Knox, PT; Eric E. Smith, MD, MPH

(Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes. 2017;10:e003242.  
 DOI: 10.1161/CIRCOUTCOMES.116.003242.)

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Improving DTN

<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>
Treatment near CT scan	Stretcher to CT offload	Patient registered as unknown	Single stroke activation

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**Within CT Suite**  
**Door to Needle - target <20 mins**

- Multi-phase CTA protocol
- Stroke team informs ER RN if IVtPA candidate.
- RN or neuro mixes tPA + prepares bolus.
- Neuro monitors patient while ER RN prepares tPA infusion.
- Pump may be programmed to receive bolus followed by infusion
- OR** neuro administers tPA Bolus.
- RN begins infusion in CT suite – no delay
- RN documents time of bolus/infusion
- If not tPA candidate, tPA returned to Omnicell by ED RN.



Work in Parallel

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Onset of Symptoms/Last Seen Well		
ABC		
2 IVs		
Prenotification		
Referral Site ED Door		

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### 5. Improving Door in to Door Out Time

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## Where is EVT Performed?

- ❖ In Ontario, there are currently ten hospitals providing EVT.
- ❖ Eight provide EVT 24/7 and two provide EVT with an alternate model

### EVT Hospitals 24/7:

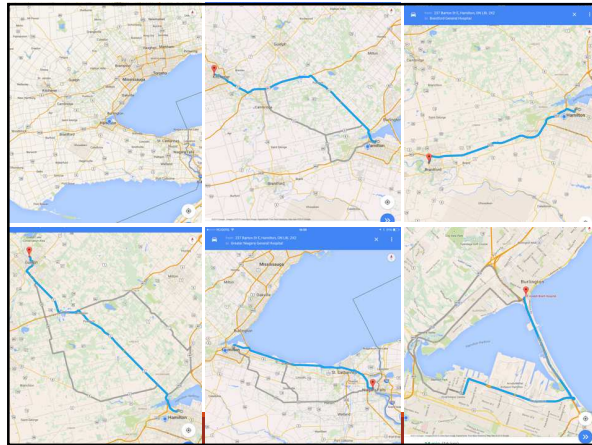
- ❖ Hamilton Health Sciences
- ❖ London Health Sciences Centre
- ❖ St. Michael's Hospital
- ❖ Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- ❖ The Ottawa Hospital – Civic Campus
- ❖ Trillium Health Partners
- ❖ University Health Network – Toronto Western
- ❖ Kingston Health Sciences Centre

### EVT Hospitals Non 24/7:

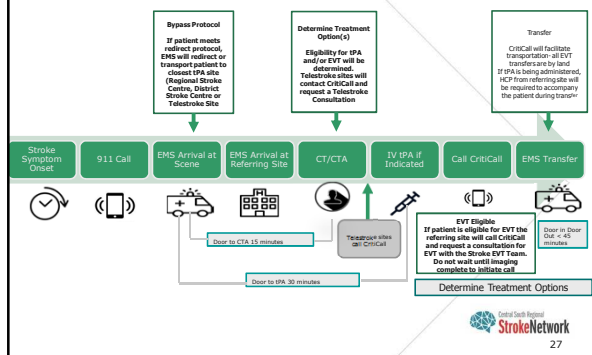
- ❖ Thunder Bay Regional Health Centre
- ❖ Windsor Regional Hospital



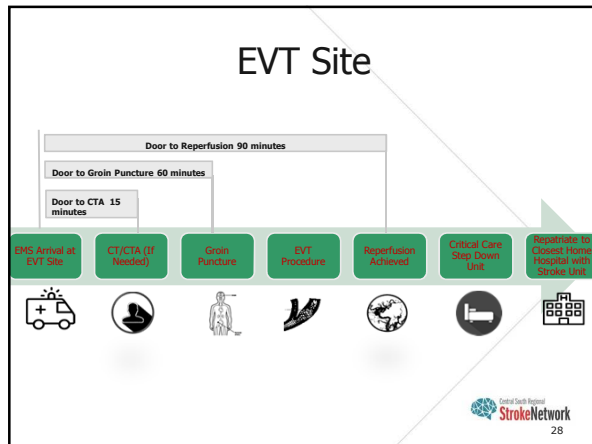
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## TPA Referring Site



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### Canadian Best Practice Targets

**Referring Centre and/or tPA Site:**

- ❖ Door to CTA: 15 minutes
- ❖ Door to Needle: 30 minutes
- ❖ Door In Door Out: 45 minutes

**EVT Site:**

- ❖ Door (EVT Site) to arterial puncture: 60 minutes
- ❖ ED Arrival (EVT Site) to first reperfusion: 90 minutes

Central South Regional StrokeNetwork 29

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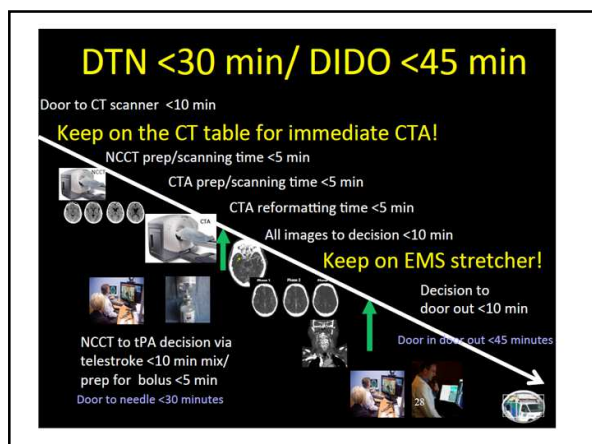
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## Hyperacute Stroke Management: The New Era

QUESTIONS?

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**MacNeurology**  
Excellence in Care, Education, and Research

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