

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
NURSING POLICIES**

STROKE-ACTIVATION OF CODE STROKE

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Effective Date:

Policy No: AD097

Cross Referenced: Stroke/TIA ('Code Stroke')

Origin: Patient Care

Reviewed Date:

Authority: Chief Nursing Officer

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SCOPE:

All patient care disciplines within Hackettstown Regional Medical Center

PURPOSE:

To identify, and immediately respond to patients experiencing signs and symptoms of a Stroke at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center.

DEFINITIONS:

I. Signs and Symptoms of Stroke:

- A. Sudden weakness, numbness or paralysis of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body (including a facial droop)
- B. Sudden slurred speech or difficulty speaking
- C. Sudden severe headache with no cause, dizziness, blurred or decreased vision
- D. Sudden confusion or change in mental status
- E. Sudden trouble walking, loss of balance or lack of coordination

II. Code Stroke team:

- A. Emergency Department Physician and ED Nurse
- B. Inpatients: RRT Physician/Hospitalist and RRT Nurse
- C. Nursing Supervisor

III. Supportive staff/departments:

- A. Laboratory Department (Technician for inpatients)
- B. Radiology Technician (who notifies the Radiologist)
- C. Pharmacy
- D. Neurologist/Tele-neurologist (Specialist On Call/SOC)
- E. Stroke Coordinator- when available

POLICY:

- I. Any patient who presents to the Emergency Department (ED) exhibiting signs and symptoms of a Stroke or a sudden change in neurological status, without explanation, will be seen by a physician, within 10 minutes of arrival and evaluation by the Stroke Team within 15 minutes of arrival. Any inpatient with acute neurologic changes without explanation shall have the Code Stroke Team evaluate the patient within 10 minutes of notification.

PROCEDURE

- I. Code Stroke is activated by dialing 6000.
 - A. The operator will then activate the team with an overhead page announcing the code and the location.

