## 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 Origin: Patient Care

Stroke')

Reviewed Date: Authority: Chief Nursing Officer

Revised Date: February 10, 2016 Page: 1 of 2

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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.

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1. The overhead paging system alerts the Lab staff to expect STAT blood specimens, alerts the Radiology staff to prepare the CT scanner and alerts the Pharmacist for potential t-PA preparation

- **B.** The operator will also send an alert over the Vocera phone system to alert the team.
- **II.** Documentation of a Code Stroke notification:
  - **A.** In the ED, record Stroke team notification/arrival in the nursing notification section.
  - **B.** For inpatients, complete the top portion of the Rapid Response sheet.