



Minnesota Stroke System Newsletter

December 2013

From the Staff

Welcome to the first issue of the Minnesota Stroke System Newsletter, your source of information about the Minnesota Stroke System, brought to you by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). We are excited about the upcoming rollout of the System, and hope that this newsletter can serve as an effective way to communicate with all of our partners.

In each issue, we'll provide information to help you get ready for stroke hospital designation, and inform you of announcements and key dates to remember.

The system is designed to be inclusive – we expect and will work towards every hospital being recognized by MDH as a stroke-ready facility. Our goal is that every resident in Minnesota lives within 60 minutes of a hospital ready to treat a stroke. Only when every single hospital in the state reaches this level of readiness can we accomplish our goal.

Feature: Minnesota Stroke Central

You might be asking yourself, “There are so many stroke organizations, reporting requirements, and programs – how can anyone keep them straight?” Good question! One solution we developed is consolidating the stroke data reporting and stroke system application together. We're naming this landing site “Minnesota Stroke Central.” This will be your destination for data reporting and submitting information to MDH for all things stroke in Minnesota. Whether it is for state quality measure reporting, data reporting for the Minnesota Stroke Registry Program, or working on and submitting your application for designation, you will do it all at the same secure online location.

All hospitals currently have at least one account. To find out who has an account at your facility (or to get set up with one), contact us at health.stroke@state.mn.us.

General information about the stroke system will be posted at the MDH stroke website. Here you'll be able to find things like a listing of designated hospitals, resources, reports, and background about the system. If all else fails, just give us a call or send an email!

Question Corner

Q: Help! I'm a rural or small hospital and have no idea about any of this. Where do I begin? We'll be hosting a training webinar where you'll learn about the system and how to get designated (see dates below). You can also get the *Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Toolkit* from our website. And contact us at any time – no question is off limits.

Q: What are the criteria for an acute stroke ready hospital? 1) an acute stroke team available 24/7; 2) a written protocol for acute stroke triage and diagnosis; 3) a written plan for triage and transport by your primary EMS agency; 4) emergency department personnel trained in stroke diagnosis and treatment; 5) labs, EKG, and chest x-ray 24/7; 6) CT imaging and interpretation 24/7; 7) a written emergency stroke treatment protocol; 8) a neurosurgery coverage plan; 9) a transfer protocol; 10) a designated medical director.

Q: I'm at a certified Primary Stroke Center or Comprehensive Stroke Center. Will I need to submit an application? Yes. All hospitals must complete an application in order to be recognized by the State of Minnesota stroke system.

Q: What is the deadline for applying? We are still finalizing deadlines. Our plan is to offer designations quarterly throughout 2014-2015. The first deadline will be no earlier than March 1, 2013.

Q: Will there be a site survey for the designation? No. Hospitals will submit an application electronically which will include documentation that will show us how you meet each of the criteria. In the future we plan to conduct in-person site visits for renewals. We also plan to conduct in-person visits to a sample of hospitals, to provide support and technical assistance to designated facilities.

Q: Will we have to re-apply every year? No. Each time you are designated, you'll be good for a three-year period.

Mark Your Calendar

February 4, 2014 – Noon: Minnesota Stroke System Training Webinar. Learn about the system and how to get designated. This webinar will be recorded. Registration info coming soon. Contact health.stroke@state.mn.us for more info.

March 1, 2014 – Tentative Deadline for Round 1 of the Minnesota Stroke System applications. More info coming soon.

Contact Us

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Find out More

Minnesota Stroke System

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/chp/cvh/strokesystem/index.html>

Minnesota Stroke Central (designation application)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/mnstroke registry/login.cfm>

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