Bridging the Gap to Recognize Acute Stroke

Gap Analysis for Recognize Subtle Stroke Signs: Quick Action Saves Brain

Use the following scales to assess your knowledge and skills in recognizing subtle signs of acute stroke. Help your colleagues perform similar assessments and then apply the strategies in the Tools and Tactics tool to help you address this risk in your patient population.

1. How often do you consider the risk for stroke when you are caring for patients admitted with a different condition?

Never ▲ Sometimes ▲ Always

Need help getting there?

- Incorporate an evaluation of the risk for acute stroke into your routine assessment.
- Include an assessment of the patient’s risk for acute stroke in hand-off of care report.
- Assess patients at each interaction for changes in appearance, cognition, speech, or movement that may warrant closer evaluation.

Resources:

- Tools and Tactics
- Watch the webinar with your colleagues and discuss the strategies described
- Recognize Subtle Stroke Signs: Quick Action Saves Brain
2. How consistently do you and your colleagues apply a standardized tool, such as the NIH Stroke Scale, in the evaluation of your patients?

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<th>Never</th>
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Need help getting there?

- Review the NIH Stroke Scale to increase awareness of signs consistent with acute stroke.
- Collaborate with your nurse manager, advanced practice nurse, or clinical practice committee to:
  - Determine a tool that will work for your unit and patient population
  - Ask a sample of nurses on your unit to test the tool and provide feedback
  - Identify criteria for applying the tool to patients at risk for acute stroke or patients who experience a sudden change in status
- Consider developing a short, case-based presentation to help your colleagues learn how to use the stroke assessment tool.

Resources:

- Review the Tools and Tactics included among this webinar’s resources
3. How often do you discuss with colleagues, friends, and/or family the benefits of early intervention for acute stroke?

| Never | Sometimes | Always |

Need help getting there?
- Ask family and friends if they are aware of health conditions that increase the risk for stroke (eg, hypertension, atrial fibrillation, and lifestyle choices such as smoking).
- When anyone—a patient or family member you are caring for or a friend in a social setting—expresses fear of stroke, use the opportunity to provide education on stroke symptoms and how fast action improves outcomes.
- Review and promote public health efforts such as “Act FAST” by the National Stroke Association or “Spot a Stroke FAST” from the American Heart Association.

Resources:
- Tools and Tactics