Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Stroke?

Stroke is a disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. It is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts (or ruptures). When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood (and oxygen) it needs, so it and brain cells die. Stroke can be caused either by a clot obstructing the flow of blood to the brain (called an ischemic stroke) or by a blood vessel rupturing and preventing blood flow to the brain (called a hemorrhagic stroke). A TIA (transient ischemic attack), or "mini stroke", is caused by a temporary clot.

What is Mission: Lifeline Stroke?

Mission: Lifeline Stroke is a program for transforming stroke care by focusing efforts on connecting all of the components of acute stroke care into a smoothly integrated system that reinforces use of evidence-based guidelines, measures performance, identifies gaps, and engages in improvement projects at a systems level. The stroke system of care begins with community recognition and preparedness to identify stroke and continues all the way through hospital discharge, into rehabilitation and the initiation of secondary prevention. It brings together hospitals, ambulance services, non-transport medical first response agencies, emergency communications centers, emergency medical service regulatory and medical direction agencies, local government, local media, and payers to forge a proactive system of stroke care that saves and improves lives.

How does this project support the efforts of the existing Stroke System of Care in Nebraska?

Mission: Lifeline Stroke will build upon the gains achieved by the existing Nebraska Stroke Advisory Council by further strengthening the collaboration with stakeholders across the state representing hospitals, individual ambulance services, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and others. The project will enhance many critical elements of an optimal stroke system of care, including:

- A system-wide data tool to assess stroke care used throughout the continuum of care;
- Coordination of treatment guidelines for EMS and hospital personnel;
- Local plans for rapid transport and/or inter-facility transfer of stroke patients;
- Strategies for reducing barriers to access and quality of telemedicine and rehab care;
- Peer-to-peer stroke survivor support network; and
- A public education campaign focused on recognition of stroke signs and symptoms and the need to activate the 9-1-1 system.

Frequently Asked Questions for Hospitals

1. Who is eligible to participate in the NE Mission: Lifeline statewide Stroke Council and Taskforces?

    a. All Nebraska EMS agencies and hospitals, clinicians and administrators that participate in the care of stroke patients will be eligible to have representation on the statewide stroke council.

    b. Statewide health organizations, associations and other interested parties that work directly with EMS organizations and hospitals on the care of stroke patients are also encouraged to participate in the statewide stroke council.

2. Will all Hospitals be eligible to receive grant funding?
   All hospitals in Nebraska that receive and care for stroke patients are eligible to receive grant funds for Get With The Guidelines Stroke and support for abstraction.

3. Will hospitals be required to participate in any data collection tool?
   Yes, hospitals must participate in the GWTG Stroke Registry to be eligible for grant funding.

4. Will there be education for hospitals and EMS agencies?
   Yes, there will be development of a hospital and EMS curriculum and implementation plan, as well as, opportunities for advanced certifications in stroke care.

5. What is the timeline for the grant process?
   The grant project term is 7-2018 to 6-2021.

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