



A message from our new Stroke Coordinator...

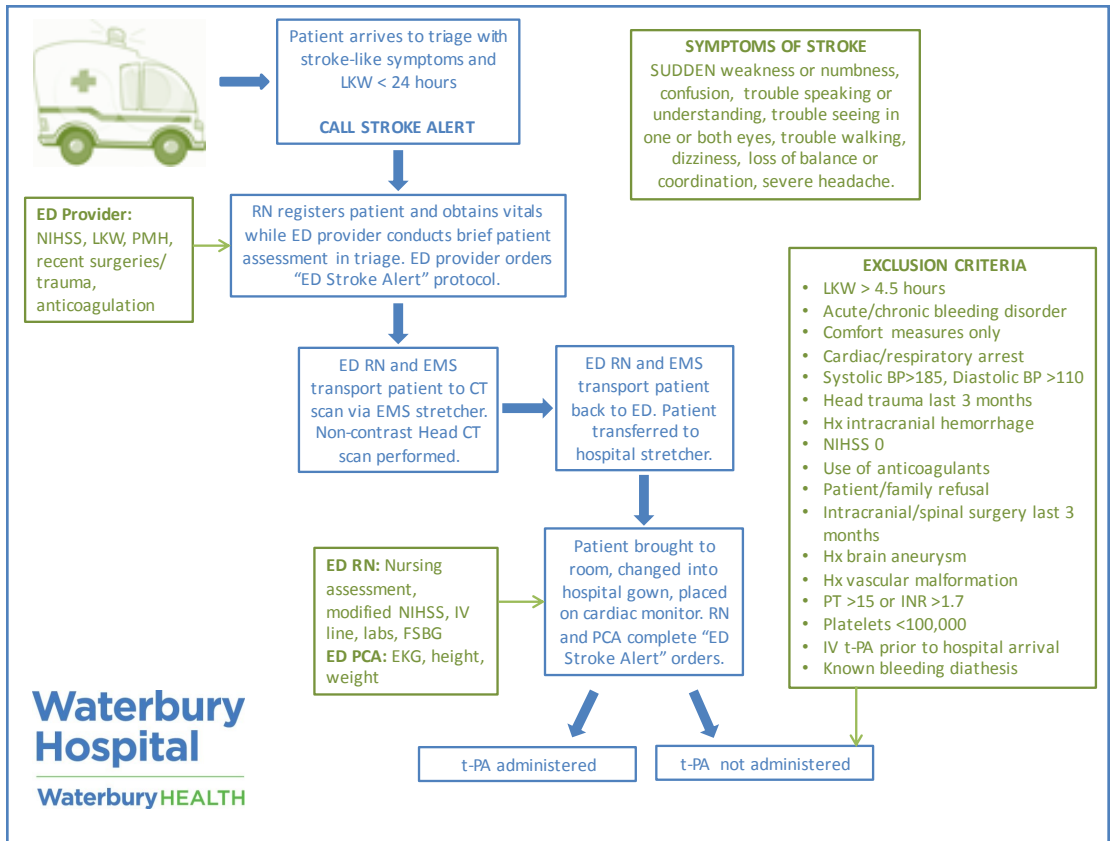
Hello everyone,

My name is Dayna Failla and I am the new Stroke Coordinator at Waterbury Hospital. I have been working to redesign our stroke program so that we can earn our Stroke Certification from the Joint Commission in the upcoming months. This process has required revising our stroke policies. The new ED policy for stroke alerts will require that the stroke alert patient arriving by EMS be evaluated briefly in triage by the ED provider, then go right from door to CT scan on the EMS stretcher accompanied by EMS and the ED RN. Many area hospitals have already implemented similar processes and this change will help improve outcomes for potential t-PA candidates. We will be hanging the flowsheets that outline the new process in triage for EMS to reference and I've posted it below for you to review.



Our go-live date for this policy is 8/13/2018.

Waterbury Hospital has a great appreciation for the role that EMS plays in patient care which is why we feel strongly about including everyone in our new policy. In addition, Michelle Diaz and myself are planning stroke education for EMS to review changes in guidelines made by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, care of the stroke patient, and signs/symptoms of stroke. We will review our policy changes with everyone again at that time.



Thank you all for everything you do and for helping Waterbury Hospital provide outstanding care to our stroke patients. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

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Waterbury Hospital – Trauma Time

With the sunny and hot weather, a lot of people are cooling off in pools, lakes, and oceans... which may, unfortunately, lead to traumatic drownings or near-drownings in the community.

What is the difference between “Drowning” and “Near-drowning”? Drowning means the patient dies within 24 hours, not necessarily in the water. Near-drowning means the patient survives past 24 hours, even if they do not survive much past that.

Some drowning statistics:

Most people who drown are typically young and healthy
Nearly 4,000 people die from drowning or near-drowning per year, but about 5 times as many receive ED treatment and survive

There are 3 age peaks: Toddlers, Adolescents/Young Adults, and the Elderly.

“Dry Drowning” happens in about 10%-20% of submersions. This happens when the person is in the water and they get laryngospasms (the larynx and glottis closes) and no water actually gets into the lungs. However, the person becomes hypoxic, loses consciousness, and then cardiac arrests.

“Wet Drowning” happens in 80% of submersions with the classic presentation. The person tries to breath in the water (aspirates water into the lungs), affecting surfactant within the lungs that aides in gas exchange and leads to atelectasis (collapse of the lung).

Predictors of prognosis of drownings:

How long were they under water? (Submersion time)
Once they got out of the water, what do they look like?
(Vital signs, Mental status)

Plan is to get them out of the water as fast as possible, and remember c-spine precautions!

Who needs transport to nearest trauma center?

Amnesia (people who cannot remember the submersion)
Loss of consciousness
Depressed level of consciousness (GCS 14 or less)
Any period of apnea
Any artificial respiration needs

**Even if asymptomatic when you arrive, if any of these symptoms were present – the person needs to go to the hospital.

<https://thetraupro.com/2018/06/29/everything-you-need-to-know-about-drowning-2/>

Any questions, thoughts, ideas, concerns, or feedback in regards to the care of the trauma patient at Waterbury Hospital? Please contact Monika Nelson, Trauma Program Coordinator – mnelson2@wtbyhosp.org



Upcoming Events:

Thomaston Fire Department

Annual Carnival - August 1—August 4

- Fireworks Friday night at 21:00
- Parade steps off at 18:00 on Saturday
- Ride bracelets for unlimited rides are available every night

Bantam Fire Company

EMS Simulations: Pediatric Water Injury/Illness and Anaphylaxis - August 8 at 19:00

- 92 Doyle Road, Bantam CT
- All surrounding towns are invited
- Training is being taught by Victoria Barnes, RN, BSN, CEMS-C and Deborah Kotrady RN, BSN, both of Yale New Haven Hospital
- Cost: Free

If you have any suggestions or questions pertaining to EMS including patient follow-ups, please contact us at ems@wtbyhosp.org.