

ED AREA SPECIFIC STROKE PATHWAY



OUT OF HOSPITAL

Clinical diagnosis of stroke
Impairment of:
language, motor function, balance, cognition
AND / OR
gaze, vision, neglect)

FROM TRIAGE
NO → No stroke call

Go to nearest hospital
NO

Go to nearest hospital
NO

Wake up stroke
(onset of stroke symptoms on waking?)
OR
Acute stroke symptoms <12hrs?

NO → No stroke call

YES

YES

PRE HOSPITAL RACE score **5** or more?

TRIAGE RACE score **1** or more? (beware of MIMICS*)

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Facial palsy | "SHOW YOUR TEETH" | 0 Symmetrical 1 Slight asymmetry 2 Completely asymmetrical |
| Arm motor | Extend arm 90° sitting 45° supine | 0 Limb upheld > 10 secs 1 Limb upheld < 10 sec 2 Unable to lift against gravity |
| Leg motor | Extend leg 30° supine | 0 Limb upheld > 5 secs 1 Limb upheld < 5 sec 2 Unable to lift against gravity |
| Head & Gaze | Head or eye deviation to one side | 0 Normal movements 1 Eye and head to one side |
| Aphasia (R side) | Follow commands: "CLOSE YOUR EYES" "MAKE A FIST" | 0 Both tasks correct 1 One of two tasks correct 2 Both incorrect |
| Agnosia (L side) | "WHOSE ARM IS THIS?" (show their affected arm) "CAN YOU MOVE YOUR ARM?" | 0 Recognize arm and moves 1 Unaware of arm OR not recognize 2 Unaware of arm AND not recognize |

NO → Go to nearest TPA centre
SCGH, RPH, FSH or Midland

YES → Is the patient SOUTH of the river AND is it 0800-1600 (FSH)
YES → Go to FSH
NO → (down arrow)

***CONSIDER STROKE MIMICS**

- THIS CAN BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT- CONSULT SR DR IF UNSURE
- SEIZURE:** Post ictal, Todd's paralysis
 - METABOLIC / TOX:** HypoGlyc, HypoNa, Encephalopathy
 - SOL:** Subdural haemorrhage, Abscess, Tumor
 - MIGRAINE:** Hemiplegic migraine
 - FUNCTIONAL:** Factitious disorder
 - INFECTION:** Meningitis, Encephalitis
 - CONFUSION / COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION**
 - PERIPHERAL VERTIGO:** Labrynthitis, Vestibular neuronitis
 - MULTIPLE SYSTEMS INVOLVED**
 - SYNCOPE**

NOTE The following are NOT absolute contraindications to thrombolysis / thrombectomy

- Known cerebral aneurysm (without symptoms SAH)
- Arterial puncture in non-compressible site < 7 days
- BSL < 2.8, SBP >= 185, DBP >= 110
- Isolated neurological signs
- Dynamic changes in stroke symptoms
- Age > 80
- Severe stroke or previous stroke

**Mild-moderate dementia (where stroke resolution would make patient's care easier)*

- GI or GU bleed < 21 days
- MI in previous 3 months
- Postictal seizure at onset of stroke
- Pregnancy
- Major surgery or serious trauma < 14 days
- Diabetes mellitus

YES* → (down arrow)
NO → No stroke call

CODE 55 STROKE CALL (SJA triggered)

- Provide ETA
- Search ICM for discharge summaries
- On arrival to ED consider stroke mimics*
- Accompany patient to CT on SJA trolley

CODE 55 STROKE CALL (ED triggered)

- Prioritize RESUS cubicle / expedite CT
- IV Cannula, FBC, VBG, INR (if on Warfarin)
- BP, temp, O₂, BSL
- Exclude trauma / stroke mimics / other causes