**ED Code Stroke Activation**

Patient presents with stroke symptoms less than 6 hours from last known well

Code Stroke activated by ED RN based on clinical presentation and/or EMS report – Goal < 15 minutes from ED arrival

Stroke Team via Alpha Pager and via Hospital Operator

 Draw blood if not drawn by EMS PTA and Perform NIHSS

Stat CT head Code Stroke within 25 minutes of arrival

Hemorrhage on CT – go to Hemorrhagic Algorithm, Consult Neurosurgery

No hemorrhage

**Decision Tree**

Less than 4 hours from LKW, review IV t-PA inclusion/exclusion criteria

in consult with on call neurologist

4–6 hours from LKW, and NIHSS ≥ 5, consider CTA head and neck with contrast with non contrast head CT if baseline mRS score 1-2

ED RN: call to notify CT of Code Stroke CTA

Patient does not meet criteria for t-PA. If NIHSS score ≥ 5 and baseline mRS score 1- 2, order CTA head and neck with contrast.

Patient meets criteria for IV t-PA:

Order and initiate t-PA – goal within 45 minutes of ED arrival

CTA negative for proximal (ICA/M1) vessel occlusion

Admit to appropriate stroke unit

CTA negative: Admit to appropriate stroke unit

CTA shows thrombus/occlusion of ICA or proximal (M1) branch of MCA

NIHSS score ≥ 5: perform CTA head and neck with contrast after t-PA infusion started if baseline mRS score 1-2

ED RN: Call to notify CT of Code Stroke CTA

Consider transfer for endovascular therapy: **Call Duke Transfer Center: 919-681-3440 or**

**UNC Transfer Center: 1-800-806-1968, ask for Neurology for IA Code Stroke**

919-681-3440.

**Modified Rankin Scale (mRS)** Score 1) No significant disability despite symptoms; able to carry out all usual duties and activities. Score 2) Slight disability; unable to carry out all previous activities, but able to look after own affairs without assistance.

Roles/Responsibilities

**ED RN:**

* Initiates care per ED standing orders for Code Stroke including Head CT, Stroke Panel labs,
* EKG, if ordered
* Initiate vital signs and neuro assessments q 30 minutes
* Accompany patient to CT
* Obtain patient weight using stretcher scale in CT
* Performs Dysphagia Screen
* Calls CT to notify of Code Stroke CTA when order received

**Rounding RN:**

* Serves as support to ED RN
* Assists with IV insertion, phlebotomy or other tasks as requested by ED RN
* Serves as “time keeper”
* Facilitates patient transport to CT scan
* Collaborates with ED physician regarding treatment decision after CT: IV t-PAand/or IA intervention

**Clinical Administrator**

* Facilitates communication and patient flow.

**Pharmacist:**

* Monitor Code Stroke process for patient candidacy for t-PA
* Prepare t-PA upon verbal instruction of ED Physician or Neurologist

**Sec/Tech:**

* Epic order entry
* Assist with tasks as needed such as walking blood specimens to lab
* Document time of page to on call neurologist and time of response