



General Order

Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. 3-4-24

Subject: Carroll Hospital Emergency Department – “Stroke Swarm” Pilot

Date: March 19, 2024

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The Carroll Hospital Emergency Department will begin a new “Stroke Swarm” pilot beginning today. The stroke swarm is a “huddle” that will take place with the entire stroke team (EMS, family, ED provider, ED triage RN, ED tech, ED pharmacist).

Patients arriving by EMS will continue to stop at the ambulance entrance and get registered and begin the triage process, unless otherwise directed by the intake RN. Once the intake RN confirms the patient meets **THEIR** “BAT CODE” (Carroll hospital stroke alert) criteria, the triage RN will call the “BAT CODE” and start a 5-minute timer.

Patients with a LKWT < 4.5 hours and +BEFAST screening would meet **THEIR** “BAT CODE” (stroke alert) criteria. Once the overhead page is made and the 5-minute timer is set the stroke team will then be directed to go to an alcove just outside of CT for a brief huddle. During this initial 5 minutes of this “stroke swarm” process the goal is to confirm LKWT, confirm history and medications, and complete an NIH score. As soon as the 5-minute timer is up the patient will go directly to the CT table.

Once the patient is taken off the CT table, they will be placed on a hospital stretcher and their weight will be obtained. The patient will be taken directly to the assigned ED room by the Carroll Stroke Team if no additional imaging is required. If additional imaging is required to determine if the patient has an LVO-they will be placed back on the CT table and may be administered TNKase while on the table, if indicated.

Please review the Stroke Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.14 to include the EMS Stroke Algorithm during your upcoming shifts, feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.