

UWMC ED - Stroke Code Process: What is the Stroke Code?

WHAT is the **STROKE CODE?**

- The **STROKE CODE** is a systematic approach to provide early alert and mobilization of the primary Stroke Response Team and second level services of a patient potentially needing emergent stroke treatment. The goal is to ensure a rapid, coordinated intervention, while minimizing delays and improving clinical outcomes in patients with acute stroke in the Emergency Department.

WHY was the **STROKE CODE developed?**

- The “**STROKE CODE**” was developed to:
 - 1) Improve UWMC’s Door (ED) to Treatment time for patients with an Acute Ischemic Stroke. Time is brain.
 - 2) Expedite transfer of appropriate UWMC ED Acute Stroke patients to Harborview Medical Center, a Joint Commission approved Primary Stroke Center within UW Medicine, for continued care, management, and rehabilitation.
- **Goal Times:**
 - **Door to IV-tPA: 45 minutes**
 - **Door to Transfer: 60 minutes**

WHEN is the **STROKE CODE Activated?**

- **STROKE CODE** is **ACTIVATED**:
 - 1) In the ED when patients arrive within 6 hrs of stroke symptom onset.
 - 2) In the ED when patients arrive within 12 hrs of posterior stroke symptom onset.

WHO Activates the **STROKE CODE?**

- **ACTIVATED** in the ED by the ED Attending (*ED Attending can designate the call to ED Charge RN).

HOW is **STROKE CODE Activated in the ED?**

- To **ACTIVATE**: Call “222,” and request “**STROKE CODE-Activation to the UWMC ED.**” A group page will be sent out to Stroke Response Team.

WHERE can I go if I have questions or feedback regarding the Stroke Code Process?

- Please contact the Stroke Code QI Committee Member for your department as listed below. Committee members should contact Stroke Center Manager, Vicki Johnson (pg 206-540-1246) for routine process questions. All urgent clinical questions should be directed to the Stroke Attending (Stroke Phone 206.734-6789).
 - ED: Medley Gatewood MD and Kris Benvenuto RN.
 - Neurology/ Stroke: David Tirschwell MD/ Kyra Becker MD and Vicki Johnson ARNP
 - Radiology CT: Mario Ramos
 - Radiology: William Shuman MD and Yoshimi Anzai MD
 - Pharmacy: Debora Frieze PharmD
 - Communication Systems: Tim Lewis (paging)

***Reminder: The **STROKE CODE** applies **ONLY** to patients in **Emergency Department**.

For in-house patients with new stroke symptoms, call a Rapid Response & the Neurology Resident as usual.