

The Stroke Team at The University of Tennessee Medical Center is committed to providing exceptional care to our stroke patients. The Stroke Center participates in the American Heart/American Stroke Association’s Get with the Guidelines (GWTG) Program which is designed to promote adherence to the latest scientific guidelines for stroke care. Our Stroke Center consistently meets or exceeds the national averages among GWTG hospitals.

<b>Stroke Care Quality Measures</b>	The University of Tennessee Medical Center	<i>Get With The Guidelines Hospitals Average</i>
<p>Percent of stroke patients who receive medication to prevent blood clots forming in veins while they are confined to bed.</p> <p><i>Stroke patients are at risk for developing blood clots in their veins which could lead to serious complications.</i></p>	100%	98%
<p>Percent of stroke patients who are prescribed medication to prevent future strokes at time of discharge.</p> <p><i>Having a stroke increases risk for future strokes. These medications, called antithrombotics, prevent blood clots from causing recurrent stroke.</i></p>	100%	99%
<p>Percent of stroke patients who have irregular heart rhythm, or atrial fibrillation, that are prescribed blood thinners at time of discharge.</p> <p><i>Atrial fibrillation results in full contraction of the heart; this can allow blood to pool and form clots, increasing risk for future stroke. Blood thinners, also called anticoagulants, prevent clots from forming.</i></p>	100%	98%
<p>Percent of stroke patients who arrive at hospital within 2 hours of the start of their symptoms, for whom intravenous (IV) clot-busting drug (t-PA) was given within 3 hours of time symptoms started.</p> <p><i>With every minute of decreased blood supply, brain cells die. The sooner IV t-PA is given, the better the chances for recovery. IV t-PA must be given within a specified time period after the start of a stroke, so recognizing the warning signs and calling 911 is very important.</i></p>	98%	92%

Stroke Care Quality Measures	The University of Tennessee Medical Center	<i>Get With The Guidelines</i> Hospitals Average
<p>Percent of patients with an ischemic stroke who receive medications to prevent future strokes by the end of hospital day 2.</p> <p><i>Having a stroke increases risk for future strokes. These medications, called antithrombotics, prevent blood clots from causing recurrent stroke.</i></p>	98%	98%
<p>Percent of stroke patients with high or unknown cholesterol levels, or those taking cholesterol-lowering medications before their stroke who are prescribed cholesterol-lowering medications at time of discharge.</p> <p><i>High cholesterol increases risk for stroke. Cholesterol-lowering medications, in addition to diet changes, can help to lower cholesterol levels and prevent future stroke.</i></p>	100%	98%
<p>Percent of stroke patients who are screened for difficulty swallowing before being given anything to eat or drink.</p> <p><i>Many stroke patients have difficulty swallowing, also called dysphagia. Dysphagia can lead to pneumonia and other complications.</i></p>	95%	84%
<p>Percent of stroke patients and their families that were given information and materials to help them understand why the stroke happened, how they can reduce their risk for future stroke, their medications, the plan for follow-up after discharge, and how to recognize and respond to stroke warning signs.</p>	100%	96%
<p>Percent of stroke patients who reported a history of smoking who were given counseling and assistance to quit smoking.</p>	100%	98%
<p>Percent of stroke patients who were assessed by physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.</p> <p><i>Stroke can cause difficulty with walking, using arms, and speaking. Rehabilitation can help stroke survivors reach their full potential for recovery.</i></p>	100%	99%

Key: Orange shaded areas indicate our results meet or exceed *Get with the Guidelines* participating hospitals average.

Data from January 2017 through May 2019. Source: *Get with the Guidelines*, used by permission.