

### ASC: Acute Stroke nursing Care

Stroke patients are a specialized patient population with specific assessment, education, and documentation needs. Specialized care in a stroke unit leads to better outcomes for patients. This ASC tool is a guide to assist in the care of stroke patients.

| A (Acute monitoring)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | S (Stroke complications)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Neuro checks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCS</li> <li>• Speech and language</li> <li>• Presenting symptoms</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> NIHSS (admission, 24h post intervention, change in status, change in level of care, discharge)</li> </ul> <p><b>DUE @</b><br/>           _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Venous thromboembolism prophylaxis <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemoprophylaxis if indicated</li> <li>• IPCs applied if not on chemoprophylaxis</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Blood pressure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> BP specified target: _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of checks: Q____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Act if outside target, then recheck</li> </ul> <p><b>DUE @</b><br/>           _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>             | <p>Aspiration pneumonia prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bedside stroke dysphagia screen for all patients (<i>by trained nurse or provider</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SLP eval to advance diet</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin PR for ischemic stroke if NPO</li> </ul>                                                  |
| <p>Daily input and output including bowel movements. Notify provider team and involve RD for tube feedings and potential decreased PO intake.</p> <p><b>I&amp;O</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Urinary tract infection prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize catheterization</li> <li>• Assess for urinary retention (bladder scan as needed), communicate to covering provider</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Post thrombolysis and/or thrombectomy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor for neuro change, headache, BP</li> <li>• Ensure neuro checks, VS, vascular site checks/pulses documented per ordered frequency</li> </ul> <p><b>DUE @</b><br/>           _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>                                   | <p>Prevent immobility issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Braden scoring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Regular turning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pressure point protection</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do not pull on affected arm during repositioning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage OOB and mobilization</li> </ul> |

### C (Communication)

Handoff Includes

- Presenting symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_
- Type and location of stroke: \_\_\_\_\_
- Treatments: \_\_\_\_\_
- Baseline assessments (including vascular checks for patients post-angiogram/embolectomy): \_\_\_\_\_

With Provider Team

- Change in neurologic status
- Blood pressure outside identified parameters (too high or too low)
- Concern for stroke complications
- Changes in oral intake and/or swallowing function

With Patients and Caregivers

- Regular communication including patient status, changes, plans
- Stroke-specific education (Document on education record). Provide a stroke teaching book (call 51600 or 53600 if a book is needed). Education should include:
  - The patient's personal risk factors for stroke
  - Medications prescribed, especially new medications prescribed due to stroke/stroke prevention
  - Recognizing signs and symptoms of stroke
  - The importance of activating EMS (call 911) with symptoms of stroke
  - Follow-up after stroke (outpatient appointments)