Aim: To standardize evaluation and management of suspected stroke.

Suspicion for stroke:
Acute onset hemiparesis, aphasia, visual field loss, ataxia, dysarthria, hemisensory loss, new-onset focal seizures with > 2 hr post-ictal paralysis

Evaluate emergently in ED
(see note 1 if patient is ≥ 14 years old)
- Determine last known well (LKW) time, page Pediatrics Neurology (and Heme if patient has Sickle Cell Disease)
- Get STAT CT
- NPO, Place PIV, bed rest, keep O2 sats > 95%
- HOB flat for acute ischemic stroke
- HOB up 30–45 for CSVT or intracranial hemorrhage
- Obtain CBC with diff, PT/PTT/Fib, CMP, POC glucose, EKG (do not delay imaging)
- Acetaminophen Q6 hours for temp > 37 C

Go to MRI [Quick Brain (QB) Preferred Acutely]
(see page 3 for contact info.)
- LKW time < 4.5 hrs: QB MRI immediately
- LKW 4.5–24 hr: QB MRI urgently or immediately if close to 24 hour window and endovascular therapy considered
- LKW > 24 hr: Discuss with Peds Neuro, routine MRI (see note 2)

CT shows bleed?
- No
- Yes

Transfer to PICU
Consult Pediatric Neurosurgery (if bleed)
Keep glucose 50–150
Load with fosphenytoin 20 mg/kg

Meets tPA criteria? (See page 2, note 3)
- No
- Yes

Give Aspirin 3–5 mg/kg x 1

Off guideline
Evaluate for other causes

NOTE 1
For patients ≥ 14 years old:
Who present to MPLS ED: Transfer immediately to Abbott NW ED if: patient is ≥ 14 years old, AND < 24 hours since last known well (LKW), AND no history of CP or genetic/metabolic disease or sickle cell.
Who are coming via EMS or outside ED: Transfer directly to Abbott if coming via outside ED or EMS, transfer from Minneapolis ED if no clinical uncertainty after outside hospital ED MD evaluation.
Who present to STP ED: Do complete evaluation without transfer if in St. Paul ED.

*For patients 6–13 yrs age: Do complete evaluation in ED of presentation. If being transferred from outside ED or via EMS, divert to MPLS ED if possible if stroke suspected.

*Guideline does not apply to patients < 6 yr age, however consider diverting to MPLS ED if arriving from outside ED/EMS if stroke suspected

NOTE 2
CT does not definitively rule out stroke. All patients should have MRI obtained as quickly as possible. Patients who are having stroke ruled out should be admitted to PICU unless an MRI has excluded stroke.
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### NOTE 3

**tPA Protocol** (Adapted from CHOP and TIPS trial study criteria)

**Inclusion Criteria: Age 6–18 years**
- Clinical diagnosis of ischemic stroke with onset within 4.5 hours of treatment initiation
- Confirmed restricted diffusion on MRI
- Symptoms indicate evolving major disabling stroke

**Exclusion Criteria:**
- Stroke due to: endocarditis, sickle cell, bilateral Moyamoya
- Stroke or head trauma within past 3 months
- Any prior intracranial hemorrhage which might increase risk recurrent hemorrhage
- Major surgery within 14 days
- GI or GU bleeding within previous 21 days
- Arterial puncture at non-compressible site within 7 days
- Lumbar puncture within 7 days
- Rapidly improving stroke symptoms
- CT or SWI MRI with evidence of hemorrhage
- Presentation consistent with acute myocardial infarction (MI) or post-MI pericarditis (requires cardiology evaluation)
- Persistent SBP or DBP ≥ 10 mmHg above the 95th percentile for norms
- Platelets < 100,000
- Glucose < 50 or > 400
- INR > 1.7 if on warfarin
- On heparin therapy within 48 hours and with elevated PTT
- Pregnant or lactating female
- CT with evidence of hypodensity and/or effacement of cerebral or cerebellar sulci in > 33% of MCA territory (relative contraindication)

### NOTE 4

**tPA administration:**
- Total dose 0.9 mg/kg (Max dose 90 mg)
- Administer 10% of the dose as an IV bolus over 5 minutes. Infuse remainder over 1 hour via dedicated IV line
- Hold other anticoagulation x at least 24 hours
- Monitor in ICU at least 48 hours
- Avoid invasive procedures (e.g., blood draws, catheters, lines, NG placement) x at least 24 hours

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**BP Normative values: 95% average 24-hr values for children according to age**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<th>Girls</th>
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</table>
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Contact information: Minneapolis
Pediatric Neuro On-Call: Amion: Noran/Children’s
PICU Attending: 612-813-8563 or Amion
CVCC Attending: 612-813-58411 or Amion
Neuroradiology: 612-813-8200 or Amion
Sedation Coordinator: 612-813-8285
Neuro Interventional Radiology: 612-863-4941

Contact information: St. Paul
General Imaging Department: 651-220-6147
Pediatric Neuro On-Call: Amion: Noran/Children’s
PICU Attending: 651-220-8563 or Amion
Neuroradiology: 651-220-7125 or Amion
Neuro Interventional Radiology: 651-241-8256

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Garden View Medical Building
Suite 302
St. Paul, MN 55102
Main: 651-220-6705