

Primary Stroke Centers Save Lives

CMS Mini-internship program spreads the word

UNDER A promising new public health initiative, legislators, aldermen, and community leaders are learning about Cook County's designated Primary Stroke Centers courtesy of the CMS Mini-internship program.

CMS enthusiastically agreed to lead the educational campaign because many people, including patients and physicians, are unaware of a new Chicago stroke transport protocol that requires acute stroke patients to be taken to the nearest primary stroke center hospital, rather than to the nearest emergency room. The Region XI (Chicago) Emergency Medical Service (EMS) System implemented this protocol in March 2011.

Two leading stroke experts from Rush University Medical Center are offering lawmakers tours of hospital stroke centers and leading discussion on improving outcomes for this major public health burden. Neelum Aggarwal, MD, clinical core co-leader of Rush's Alzheimer's disease research center, and Shyam Prabhakaran, MD, head of cerebrovascular disease and neurocritical care, proposed the mini-internship initiative as an extension of their work at Rush.

Both doctors hope that CMS members will urge their legislative representatives to join this critical campaign, and see first-hand how primary stroke centers would benefit their constituents. Rush is one of nearly 30 designated primary stroke centers in the Cook County region.

Stroke affects approximately 9,000 Chicagoans annually. It is the third-leading cause of death in the United States and the No. 1 cause for major disability in adults nationwide. Time is of the essence when responding to stroke. On average, a 50-year old man with stroke loses as many neurons in 10 hours as he would over the next 30 years. The establishment of primary stroke centers in hospitals throughout the region aims to provide stroke patients appropriate treatment as quickly as possible.

The benefits of direct transport to a primary stroke center include:

- Improved efficiency in patient care.
- Increased use of acute stroke therapies.
- Reduced morbidity and mortality.
- Improved long-term outcomes.
- Reduced health care costs.

The general public is not aware of the services primary stroke centers can provide, such as administration of tPA, or that EMS can take them directly to a stroke center rather than the local emergency room if patients or family members request it.

To invite your elected officials to any one of Cook County's primary stroke centers, please contact Christine Fouts 312-670-2550, ext. 326; or email cfouts@cmsdocs.org.

Mt. Sinai Hospital Primary Stroke Center Tour

1500 S. California Ave., Chicago, IL 60608; Monday, June 4, 2012; 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (approximate—will finalize in May). **Expected Participants:** Heather Beckstrom, Stroke Program Assistant, Mt. Sinai Hospital; Dr. Mir Yadullahi, Stroke Program Medical Director, Mt. Sinai Hospital; Sen. Annazette Collins (D-5); Rep. Arthur Turner, Jr. (D-9); Ald. Jason Ervin (28th Ward); Ald. Roberto Maldonado (26th Ward).

Swedish Covenant Hospital Primary Stroke Center Tour

5145 N. California Ave., Chicago, IL 60625; Tuesday, June 5, 2012; 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (approximate—will finalize in May). **Expected Participants:** Dr. Bruce McNulty, Emergency Department Director, Swedish Covenant Hospital; Jackie Strzalka, RN, Manager of Intensive Care and Intermediate Care Units, Swedish-Covenant Hospital; Imelda (Mel) Prado, MD, BSN, ED Stroke Coordinator, Swedish-Covenant Hospital; Sen. Heather Steans (D-7); Rep. Greg Harris (D-13); Rep. John D'Amico (D-15); Ald. Patrick J. O'Connor (40th Ward); Ald. Margaret Laurino (39th Ward).

Mercy Hospital and Medical Center Primary Stroke Center Tour

2525 S. Michigan Ave., # 8, Chicago, IL 60616; Tuesday, June 19, 2012; 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (approximate—will finalize in May). **Expected Participants:** Dr. Jeffrey Kramer, Chief, Section of Neurology, Mercy Hospital and Medical Center; Laura Owens, RN, CCRN, Stroke Coordinator, Mercy Hospital and

Medical Center; Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-13); Rep. Kimberly DuBuclet (D-26); Rep. Barbara Flynn-Currie (D-25) Majority Leader; Ald. Robert Fioretti (2nd Ward); Ald. Will Burns (4th Ward).

Little Company of Mary Hospital Primary Stroke Center Tour

736 W. 95th St. Chicago, IL 60628; Thursday, June 21, 2012; 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (approximate—will finalize in May). **Expected Participants:** Dr. Michael Schwartz, Neurologist, Little Company of Mary Hospital; Dr. Michael O'Mara, Emergency Medicine, Little Company of Mary Hospital; Ann Miller, Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist Stroke Coordinator, Little Company of Mary Hospital; Sen. Ed Maloney (D-18); Rep. Kelly Burke (D-36).

Cook County Area Hospitals with Primary Stroke Centers

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital
 Advocate Christ Medical Center
 Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital
 Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
 Advocate South Suburban Hospital
 Advocate Trinity Hospital
 Alexian Brothers Medical Center
 Ingalls Memorial Hospital
 John H. Stroger, Jr., Hospital of Cook County
 Little Company of Mary Hospital & Health Care Centers
 Loyola University Medical Center
 MacNeal Hospital
 Mercy Hospital and Medical Center
 Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center
 NorthShore University HealthSystem
 Northwestern Memorial Hospital
 Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center
 Resurrection Medical Center
 Rush University Medical Center
 Saint Alexius Medical Center
 Saint Francis Hospital
 Saint Joseph Hospital
 Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center
 University of Chicago Medical Center
 University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago
 West Suburban Medical Center
 Westlake Hospital 