

Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council

Stroke Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

10:00 am



Held via Zoom

Those present were:

Alex Stephenson	astephenson@pwcgov.org
Amy Baker	amy.baker2@inova.org
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Kate Passow	kate.passow@gmr.net
Laith Altaweel	laith.altaweel@gmail.com
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Margaret Probst	margaret@vaems.org
Michelle Ludeman NVEMS Council	michelle@vaems.org
Rita Muldoon-Laccone	rita.muldoon-laccone@inova.org
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Scott Weir, MD	fire.omb@fairfaxcounty.gov
Shelby Magyar	sdmagyar@novanthealth.org
Tawny Jackson	tawny.jackson@heart.org

The meeting was started at 10:04 am by Laura Vandegrift

INTRODUCTIONS OF WORKGROUP CHAIRS:

- Alex Stephenson, Prince William County Fire & Rescue
 - Currently the QA Lieutenant for the last two years and has been with PWC DFR for 15 years
 - He is passionate about stroke care, working with local hospitals on data, and together they are working hard to get great feedback and monthly/quarterly data
 - He is currently sending quarterly data to the field providers
 - Overall, he feels they are doing a great job with stroke but there is always room for improvement. He is currently looking for trends in the county and within the region and seeing what each other are finding in their localities
 - They are working with FirstWatch, so they can get the data from them as needed, but there is also a program that auto-populates the data after calls for PW & Haymarket and this has been very helpful
 - Sentara hasn't signed on yet, but Andrea Helmbach is entering Sentara's data manually and has been a great help and resource for them
 - They are working on increasing peer review processes in the agency

- Laith Altaweel, MD from Inova
 - Neuro-Intensivist with Inova and the Stroke Medical Director for Inova Health System

AHA UPDATE:

- Tawny Jackson
 - Happy stroke month to all!
 - They have done a lot of great education this month and are doing monthly updates on education through the AHA
 - They have put out new guidelines for Intra-Cerebral Hemorrhage care
 - Tomorrow GWTG will have special office hours to talk about with hospitals and agencies and how to use the GWTG data for research purposes
 - They are anxiously awaiting the upcoming award announcements
 - Hospitals should get their official notification of GWTG awards in early June and will have marketing materials and their official award
 - EMS agencies will also get Mission: Lifeline awards and materials at the beginning of June

QUARTERLY DATA REVIEW:**Fourth Quarter 2021 Regional Stroke Data**

Data was requested from 10 stroke coordinators overseeing 12 facilities: Alexandria, Fairfax, Fair Oaks, Mt. Vernon, Reston, VHC, UVA PW, Sentara, Stone Springs, Loudoun/Cornwall/Ashburn.

1) Median Door to tPA: 47 minutes

The value is comprised of data reported from 8 stroke coordinators from 10 facilities: Fairfax, Fair Oaks, Mt. Vernon, Loudoun/Cornwall/Ashburn, Reston, Sentara, UVA PW, and VHC.

2) Median Door to Thrombectomy: 86 minutes

Data from Inova Fairfax and VHC only

3) Median DIDO time for Transfers: 126.5 minutes

Data were reported from 5 stroke coordinators regarding 7 facilities: Fair Oaks, Loudoun/Cornwall/Ashburn, Mt. Vernon, Sentara, and UVA Prince William.

STROKE SMART VIRGINIA:

Margaret Probst, the Stroke Smart Advocate and Data Analyst for the Northern VA EMS Council provided the following update:

- There are many updates since our last meeting
 - The latest progress map of Stroke Smart communities is available on the Council's website <https://tinyurl.com/StrokeSmartMap>
 - Loudoun County will be issuing its Proclamation on June 7th
 - Arlington County was the first County in the region to become a Stroke Smart community
 - Chief Povlitz has embraced the Stroke Smart Community model and put Margaret in touch with the Arlington County school system and they are also fully on board
 - Margaret will be presenting the curriculum to the staff and this will be brought to the students in the fall
 - By bringing this into the school systems, we can reach a cultural diversity that we may miss. Students who are not primarily English speakers can learn about stroke and take this home to their families
 - There is an apparent cultural barrier to calling 911 and what can result from early detection and treatment of stroke and other conditions and this is a fantastic way to get this into communities we may not normally reach
 - Margaret is also working with private schools to provide the same education for their staff and students
 - She recently connected with the Prince William Chamber of Commerce which has led her to top businesses within the Chamber including Potomac Mills Mall
 - She will be doing Stroke Smart training for all the 196 retainers at Potomac Mills
 - She is also working with the Baptist General Convention of VA which has 1300 churches in Virginia
 - The hope with all the training and education is to move the needle for the median Door to tPA times by educating the localities and public on early detection, and treatment and recognizing atypical signs and symptoms of stroke

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE:

- Alexandria Fire Department – Brian Hricik
 - They are incorporating training for their BLS providers as they have increased the number of BLS units in the city recently.
 - They are working on making sure when they recognize sick they also recognize sick strokes and get appropriate ALS transport.
 - There are occasions when it is faster for the BLS unit to transport instead of waiting for an ALS unit, but this is rare
 - They are working regularly with Inova and specifically Inova Alexandria Hospital and are happy to have participated in their recent site review IAH is now a Thrombectomy Capable Center which is a huge benefit for the city
- Fairfax County Fire & Rescue – Beth Adams
 - They continue to track times for a subset of Mission: Lifeline and 97.6% of patients (325 out of 333) documented the last known well in their report
 - They still have less than 90% of pre-alert stroke notifications for patients who didn't present

- with classic recognizable symptoms and they are working on training on the BEFAST model now with their providers both ALS and BLS
- Dr. Scott Weir added that they are also training BLS providers on atypical stroke presentation and how to manage them appropriately
 - They did a CE on that recently and will continue to work on that effort
 - Fairfax County Police Helicopter – Dr. Kari Scantlebury
 - Don't have much of an active program/QI regarding strokes as they don't take many of those calls
 - Inova Hospitals
 - Dawnielle Feucht from Mount Vernon advised they are seeing more walk-ins that arrived by POV than EMS in that area
 - They believe this is a community education issue and are seeing many with symptoms greater than 24 hours
 - They are participating in several community education events to help reduce those numbers
 - They have seen a recent uptick in stroke cases and have had 9 positives since Sunday and several more being ruled out
 - They are also seeing younger patients than the typical demographic with more in the 30-40 age range versus 65+
 - Dr. Laith Altaweel for Inova Health System and Inova Fairfax
 - They recently rolled out a new Transfer Center in March and have geared it from a stroke standpoint for DIDO times
 - That is being rolled out to their Eastern region in the coming weeks and will be rolled out to their Western region hospitals (Loudoun, Fair Oaks, and Fairfax) shortly after that
 - They also started a pilot program at Fairfax for early screening in the ED to alert the IR unit and this helps decrease door to groin puncture times
 - They can also notify the Transfer Center and the physician to help reduce those times at Fairfax and Alexandria Hospitals
 - They would love to incorporate the EMS pre-screening for LVO into the workflow in the future
 - Amy Baker from Inova Loudoun
 - They are going strong with their Tele-Neurology program at Loudoun and have a good screening process and can get a stroke physician in touch with the ED physician via telemedicine to authorize the initiation of tPA or transfer
 - They will be Loudoun supporting stroke smart county as well
 - Loudoun County Fire & Rescue – Dr. John Morgan
 - They are looking forward to participating in the Stroke Smart Proclamation in Loudoun County on June 7th
 - MWAA – Gary Hubble
 - They are also staffing BLS units regularly and training on stroke education and recognizing atypical presentations, getting onset of symptoms, and recognizing that even a headache can be an onset time/symptom
 - Prince William County Fire & Rescue – Alex Stephenson
 - They are also seeing approximately 9% of transports under the age of 50
 - They are averaging 22 minutes from the time at the patient to arrival in the hospital; most of the time it is under 20 minutes
 - They have equal male and female patients
 - He is excited to get Stroke Smart started in Prince William County and is happy to help with any

contacts and education

- Sentara Northern VA Medical Center – Andrea Helmbach
 - They have been on stroke diversion for EMS for over a month and just reopened yesterday due to failure of the PACS system and have sent many to PW hospital and other surrounding facilities and they apologize for the increase in traffic to the other hospitals
 - Because of this, for the last month they have only been seeing walk-ins via POV and even with good triage they are still seeing delays in care and not recognizing the atypical findings
 - Prince William County EMS is doing a good job at catching posterior strokes and their teams are engaged and they are enjoying great feedback in both directions
 - They have most with rapid door to imaging and door to TNK times because of early recognition by PW EMS
 - They were recently accredited for 3 more years through their annual DNV accreditation; no findings, just two small recommendations by DNV and they are putting them into practice
 - They are designated as a Primary Stroke Center and will go back to survey on a regular schedule now
 - They are putting together education with Alex for their EMS crews on stroke hot topics and are looking forward to putting that out to the EMS crews soon
 - They are also seeing the population of stroke in 35-45-year-olds and decreased in the 65+ age range
 - It is an interesting shift that they are looking at and are not sure if this is post-COVID or long-haul COVID related
 - Since they transitioned to TNK, they have had 4 cases where the patient had an LVO and they gave TNK and had AEC transfer them for further treatment, but when they were scanned at the receiving hospital, there were no clots evident and they are happy with their results from the TNK
 - They have extended the thrombolytic window to 9 hours
- Virginia Hospital Center – Ashley McKinley
 - They are working on their Comprehensive Stroke Center certification
 - They are interested in adding TNK into their policies and would like to reach out to those who have used it
 - We will provide Andrea's information for them to connect

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- What topics would the group be interested in for our next meeting?
 - The increase in strokes for those under 50
 - Increase in non-hemorrhagic strokes
 - Can we identify more reliable trends in picking up on why there is an increase
 - Dr. Altaweel suggested a process to better their workflow on the hospital end as they are having trouble getting important information like PHI, DOB, names, etc., so they can preview the medical and pharmacy records when considering treatment options
 - There are products like Pulsara, but no one is using that
 - If they can get this identifying information in advance it allows the team to get working in advance of the patient's arrival and cuts down on registration time before they can see and treat the patient

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- Tuesday, August 23, 2022
- Tuesday, November 22, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

CERTIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL STROKE COMMITTEE MEETING

Northern Virginia EMS Council, Inc
7250 Heritage Village Plaza, Suite 102
Gainesville, VA 20155

I, Craig Evans, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia EMS Council certify that the above minutes are a true and correct transcript of the meeting minutes of the Regional Stroke Committee held on May 24, 2022. The minutes were officially approved on August 23, 2022.

Craig Evans

8/23/2022

Craig Evans

Date

Meeting ID	Topic
85422289105	NOVA Quarterly Regional Stroke
Start Time	End Time
5/24/2022 9:34	5/24/2022 11:00
Duration (Minutes)	Participants
86	28

Name	User Email	Total Duration (Minutes)
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