



Georgia Paul Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry

Newsletter

March/April 2007

Hospital Achievements

Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta

Based on the reports generated from the Coverdell/Get With the Guidelines tool, Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta reached 85% for all their quality indicators in the third quarter of 2006. This was the first time since the program's inception that they achieved this goal. In addition, the Stroke Care Coordinator position, which had been funded by a grant from the Mercy Foundation, expired the end of December. The organization is dedicated to maintaining this position even though there have been recent cut backs in other areas. Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta continues to demonstrate its commitment to quality stroke care and pursuing JCAHO Primary Stroke Certification.

Northeast Georgia Medical Center

NE Georgia Medical Center is proud to say their average length of stay for ischemic stroke admissions went down from 6.3 days in 2001 to 4.3 days in 2006. In addition, they have a low readmission rate as well as a high rate of patients discharged to home. Congrats to Northeast GA on these great accomplishments and thank you for sharing this with our Coverdell hospitals.

March Conference Call

Thank you to Tabitha Rautenstrauch, one of our QI consultants for doing an excellent job facilitating the March 5th conference call. The topic for March's conference call was dysphagia screening which should be performed on all ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke patients before they are given food, fluids or medication by mouth. In addition, many thanks to Cindy Lowe from Piedmont Hospital, Tina Banks and Kathie Edwards from Hamilton Medical Center, Debbie Camp, Tanya Thomason and Margie Hunnel from St. Joseph's Hospital Atlanta and finally Dena Ollis, Karen Hardegree and Tammy Kemper from Athens Regional Medical Center for providing us with their expertise regarding dysphagia screening.

ASLS 2007 Class

We are offering our second ASLS workshop to hospitals that entered the Coverdell program in our second year of recruitment and to hospitals that were unable to attend the March 2006 workshop. Now that the registration deadline has past, we have a few remaining open slots so the opportunity to attend the workshop is being offered to all of our Coverdell hospitals on a first come first served basis. If you have staff members who would be interested in attending the workshop, please contact Kerrie Krompf about availability. We look forward to seeing you at the April 26th workshop.

Upcoming May 22nd Workshop

Please plan on attending the May 22nd stroke workshop: "Pursuit of Clinical Excellence," which is being offered by the American Heart Association in cooperation with the Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions or if you want to register for the workshop contact:

rhea.johnson@heart.org

Coverdell certificates will be distributed to some of our hospitals at the workshop.

Coverdell Highlights

April Conference Call

Our guest speaker for April's conference call was Dr. Theresa Pounds. She is the Director of the Pharmacy Practice Residency Program and Manager of the Clinical Pharmacy at Atlanta Medical Center. Dr. Pounds discussed DVT prophylaxis in the medically ill patient. Courtney Hale from Emory Eastside added to the DVT presentation the importance of a "team effort" to incorporate change in a hospital. The facilitator for the call was one of our QI Directors, Cheryl Dougherty. We'd like to thank Dr. Pounds, Courtney Hale and Cheryl for a job well done. If you'd like to contact any of the speakers from the past presentations let us know and we'll be more than happy to give you their contact information. If you need any of the teleconference PowerPoint presentations, please contact Kerrie Krompf at kkrompf@emory.edu or 404-616-8741.

Coverdell Q-Tip – (Quality Tip)

It can seem a daunting task to get different departments on board with improving stroke care. Athens Regional Medical Center realized that they needed the help of their ER for critical points in the care of their stroke patients. They decided to take a focused approach to educating the ER staff and gaining their support. Holding meetings on all shifts, the stroke team described the stroke initiative taking place within the hospital, and explained to the ER staff how vital they are to the success of the endeavor. In addition to creating a one page overview, they condensed 80 pages of stroke guidelines into one, pulling out only those items relevant to the ER, including time to CT, tPA, and dysphagia screening. By keeping the education relevant specifically to the ER, the stroke team struck a great balance between too little and too much information. They also engaged the ER staff by pointing out their importance in the continuum of care, and giving specific examples of how their department can improve patient outcomes.

Thanks to Athens Regional Medical Center for reminding us to make stroke education targeted, relevant, and concise.

Coverdell Partners:

Georgia Division of Public Health (DPH)

Emory University School of Medicine

Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF)

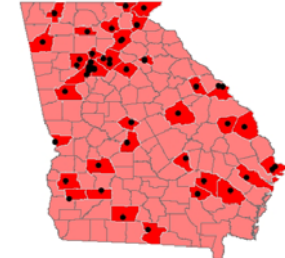
American Stroke Association (ASA)

Georgia Hospital Association (GHA)

Do you have a story, stroke success, or stroke recognition you'd like to share with us? If so, contact:

Kerrie Krompf at kkrompf@emory.edu or 404-616-8741 and your story or achievement will be included in an upcoming newsletter

Coverdell Facility Locations, Year 1 & 2



Reminder: MAY IS STROKE MONTH

Encourage your hospital staff to engage in stroke month. For suggestions contact your regional QI Director or contact Kerrie Krompf: kkrompf@emory.edu or 404-616-8741. Also, please let Kerrie know about your current or past stroke month successes for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.

If you have anything you'd like included in an upcoming newsletter or have achieved recent recognition in the area of stroke, contact: Kerrie Krompf at (kkrompf@emory.edu) or 404-616-8741.