

Georgia Paul Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry

Monthly Update April, 2006

Issue Contents:

Updates 1

Hamilton Medical Center's Stroke Code 1

The Coverdell Stroke Registry is currently in the process of planning its next hospital recruitment phase. The registry has plans to expand its great achievements in stroke care to other hospitals within the State of Georgia. After the next recruitment phase there will be a few changes to the expectations of volunteer hospitals. As these expectations become more concrete, each facility will be notified by the project manager, Kerrie Krompf.

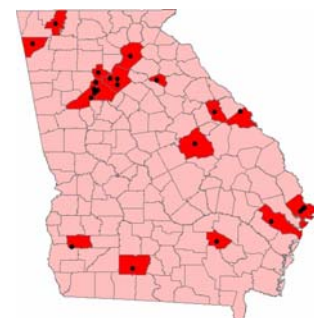
- To date, all Coverdell Hospitals have received or have planned a visit by the steering committee. We are happy to say that, regardless of size and demographic makeup, each facility seems to be making great progress in the development of stroke care programs.

- Stroke education material is available to assist in the promotion of stroke excellence. If your facility would like to receive information on obtaining educational materials, please contact the project manager, Kerrie Krompf.

- In the process of improving stroke care, the Coverdell steering committee has collected helpful materials from several hospitals. This information ranges from chart labels to discharge forms. Of the information that is available for sharing, copies can be obtained by contacting Kerrie Krompf. Information will be distributed on request.

- Conference call participation is warranted for the progression of Georgia's Coverdell Stroke Registry. Conference calls are not only to have a presenter, but to work together in order to overcome obstacles. Addressing questions on conference calls will allow for a timely response and resolution.

--The Coverdell Stroke Registry held a "Train the Trainer" Advanced Stroke Life Support Course on March 20, 2006. Attendance included 19 of the 24 Coverdell hospitals. Each facility sent 2 representatives to the class. All participants gained the necessary education to assist their facilities in achieving universal stroke knowledge.



Please refer any questions, concerns, or ideas about the Coverdell Stroke Registry to Kerrie Krompf (kkrompf@emory.edu) and she will present the information to the steering committee.

Quick Notes:

- Monthly conference calls are offered to assist with any problems experienced by facilities.
- 16 of the 24 hospitals were on the March's conference call.
- 19 hospitals participated in the Advanced Stroke Life Support Class. Notification of other educational opportunities will be presented by the steering committee.
- Progression of Georgia's Coverdell Stroke Registry begins at every Coverdell Hospital.

Hamilton Medical Center's "Code Stroke"

Hamilton Medical Center is a 282 bed facility that has adopted several changes to achieve optimal stroke care. In 2003, with guidance from Christina Banks, Hamilton Medical Center developed an effective program called, "Code Stroke." "Code Stroke" was established to promote rapid identification and care of stroke patients. The program incorporates guidelines for: identification of potential tPA candidates in the field or in the emergency room setting, activation of key personnel and resources, and timely responses by a coordinated, multidisciplinary stroke team.

This program has a dedicated rapid response team that quickly assesses and treats patients as they are presented to the emergency department, by EMS or through triage. The rapid response team initiates tPA and swallowing protocols. Patients suspected of being a candidate of tPA must undergo a stroke screening exclusion criteria form. This form includes information covering patient demographics, patient history, and laboratory results. If the patient or family answers yes to any of the questions, they are not a candidate for tPA.

Hamilton Medical Center has also adopted the GWTG/Coverdell and JACHO stroke guidelines to assist in monitoring their program's progression. Hamilton Medical Center developed a "Service Line Team" which is responsible for developing and revising stroke pathways and protocols; analyzing GWTG/Coverdell and PLM data; developing recommendations for quality improvement; establishing a best practice list for educating each hospital employee involved in stroke care; and performing community awareness and treatment programs for stroke patients. The Service Line Team also presents the program's progress and barriers to the Performance Improvement Committee on a quarterly basis.

Hamilton Medical Center has achieved stroke excellence through employee, physician, and community education programs. They have continuously focused efforts on areas lacking acceptable quality improvement levels. To enhance their progression in stroke care, Hamilton Medical Center is in the process of obtaining JACHO's Stroke Certification. Hamilton Medical Center and all the Coverdell Hospitals are a vital component to stroke care in the State of Georgia.