



# Georgia Paul Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry

## Newsletter

July/August 2007

### Hospital Achievements -May 2007

#### Stroke Month

**This newsletter is dedicated to the Coverdell Hospitals and their achievements during the month of May.**

#### Wellstar Health Systems

- Wellstar held a community screening event which offered:
  - Free blood pressure screening
  - Blood glucose screening
  - Cholesterol screening
  - Information on diabetes and risk factor modification
  - Free magnets with stroke signs imprinted on them
- They also presented some lecture series:
  - "The Importance of Early Recognition and Treatment of Stroke" by Dr. Noel Holtz, Medical Director for the WellStar Stroke Program
  - "Hemorrhagic Strokes" given by Dr. Bruce Gillett, and "Rehabilitation & Stroke" with neuron psychologist, Dr. Dennis Lindenbaum
  - Dr. Holtz spoke to the Marietta Rotary Club on "Reducing your Risk for Stroke
  - Weekly Talks by Rhonda Anderson at one of the county Senior Friendship Centers on "Reducing the Risk of Heart Attack and Stroke"
  - Lunch and Learn sessions on stroke to hospital employees

#### Grady Health System

- Grady had a Stroke Awareness day for hospital staff on May 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Nurses measured blood pressure
  - Handed out stroke education materials
- Grady hosted a Stroke Awareness day for seniors on May 21st
  - Nurses provided educational materials
  - Discussed risk factors
  - Measured blood pressures

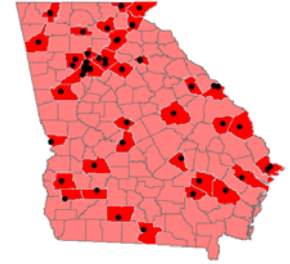
#### Doctors Hospital – Augusta

- Doctors Hospital-Augusta, combined EMS week with stroke month.
  - They provided bags with snacks and stroke information geared toward EMS providers.
  - Penlights, pens etc. were handed out to attendees.
  - The rehabilitation unit provided similar packets to outlying areas.
  - The Hospital's PT/OT department provided an in-service training on dysphagia screening to nursing staff and OT/PT staff. This was taped so staff members who could not attend were still able to receive the education.
  - The ED staff meeting included an in-service training on stroke presentation and stroke protocols.

#### Redmond Regional Medical Center

- Redmond Regional offered a Stroke presentation for their Rehab. Stroke Support Group.
  - This included discussions on why they had a stroke and how they can prevent a recurrence.
  - Focused on the difficulties faced trying to overcome disabilities the stroke caused them
  - Each member received a small notebook and was asked to write down problems they're facing.
  - As a group they looked at their problems and worked on solutions to help overcome them.
  - Redmond plans to provide visits by the different modalities to help with these issues.
  - Attendees received a free subscription to Stroke Magazine and had great discussions on the usefulness of the magazine and realized they weren't alone.

Coverdell Facility Locations, Year 1 & 2



#### Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center (a 25 bed critical access hospital)

- Because this is a small facility, when a stroke patient arrives at the ED, they are sent to a nearby larger hospital. However, the networking that their physician champion did at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> "Pursuit of Clinical Excellence" Workshop helped the physician feel comfortable enough to administer tPA. We can see the difference the Stroke Registry has made in the level of care that is provided to stroke patients.
- During the month of May the Coverdell Coordinator at SW GA Regional Medical Center:
  - Made copies of the latest Guidelines for The Early Management of Adults with Ischemic Stroke and passed this out to key members of the Stroke Registry team
  - The team discussed the protocol as stated in the publication.
  - Copies of the guidelines were placed in the emergency room, nurses station
  - A copy was given to the EMS Supervisor, to ensure that all clinical personnel had access to the information.

## 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](mailto:kkrompf@emory.edu) or 404-616-8741 and your story or achievement will be included in an upcoming newsletter**

#### Northeast Georgia Medical Center

- NE GA Medical Center hosted a stroke fair which included:
  - Blood pressure screenings
  - Glucose and cholesterol testing
  - Stroke risk assessment counseling
  - Door prizes were awarded
- They also hosted 4 heart healthy cooking classes.
  - The chef prepared a chicken stir fry with vegetables and low-fat key lime pie.
  - Door prizes (heart healthy cook books) were awarded.
- A radio interview took place at one of the local radio stations.
- Balloons were displayed on both campuses and at the outpatient rehab center which represented the stroke survivors for CY 2006 (over 300 patients).
- They had an "on hold" message related to stroke on the telephone system.
- The hospital newsletter had an article related to stroke prevention and stroke care.
- At the annual Getting Older & Better workshop there was a display table with stroke posters and a wealth of information related to stroke ( much of the information was free and obtained from NINDS) .
- There was representation at the Coverdell/ASA meeting in Atlanta and at a stroke conference at Athens Regional Medical Center.

#### Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta

- Provided updated stroke education to the staff and had poster presentations. Education credit was offered
- Stroke brochures were placed on the stroke unit for patients and families
- 3 staff members attended the GWTG conference and the stroke conference in Athens.

#### Medical Center of Central Georgia

- On May 1<sup>st</sup>, The Georgia Neuro Center's Stroke Medical Director, Dr. Mararet Boltja was a guest on a WMAZ Midday News segment and The Herbert Dennard Show. Dr. Boltja discussed the signs and symptoms of stroke and some prevention tips.
- The Medical Center of Central Georgia (MCCG) believes that education and prevention begins at home. That's why The Georgia Neuro Center at MCCG:
  - Uses the hospital's employee newsletter, the Monday Messenger, to educate its' staff. They used this avenue for the month of May to educate about FAST, Stroke facts, and the hospital's initiative to become a JCAHO Stroke certified hospital.
  - MCCG introduced the biplane system surgical suite, which is a combination of the traditional, angio (blood vessels)-imaging lab with the functionality of a standard neurosurgical operating room at an open house on May 16<sup>th</sup> to coincide with stroke month.
  - The GA Neuro Center held its first annual stroke seminar for community members and medical personnel which had a large turnout and was quite successful
  - For 2 weeks in May, stroke healthy meals were offered in the hospital cafeteria for patients, visitors and staff. The new and exciting entrees were labeled to recognize their importance to good health and received many positive reviews
  - The GA Neuro Center took the opportunity to teach patients, families and staff by manning an educational table in the cafeteria. Information handouts and other goodies were given out as many stopped to learn about stroke risks and prevention.

**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.**

#### Doctor's Hospital- Augusta

- Doctor's Hospital had a Critical Care Open House in May. The area was opened for visitors to observe a room set up in ICU and one in PCU. The PCU room was set up for a stroke patient. Staff handed out stroke information as visitors toured the room.
- There was also a table set up at the Employee Health Fair with stroke awareness literature.

#### Athens Regional Medical Center

- In May, ARMC's stroke team placed a storyboard in the main atrium. The storyboard offered information about stroke awareness including risks, signs and symptoms, what to do about a stroke, etc.
- Both a picture and an article appeared in the hospital status report highlighting the stroke team.
- The picture and information on stroke awareness was also displayed on one of the hospital's bulletin boards.
- ARMC had their first annual stroke conference which was quite a success.

### July Conference Call

Thank you to Jane Anderson from Habersham County Medical Center and Nancy Smith from Northeast Georgia Medical Center for presenting on the July conference call. Both Jane and Nancy gave very informative information about what their hospital is doing regarding stroke patient education.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer to speak on our monthly calls.

### August Conference Call

Our August 6<sup>th</sup> Coverdell call focused on stroke resources and community education. Laura Bracci (American Heart Association), Janet Braimah (Grady Health Systems) and Rhonda Anderson (Wellstar Health System) all gave excellent presentations on this very important topic. We'd like to thank Laura, Janet and Rhonda for a job well done. Also, thank you to Sharion Smith for discussing the Beauty Shop Project.

If you didn't receive the presentations, please contact Kerrie Krompf at 404-616-8741 or [kkrompf@emory.edu](mailto:kkrompf@emory.edu).

## Coverdell Q-Tip – (Quality Tip)

**Grady Health System** has a stamp that is placed in all the stroke patient charts by the nursing progress notes.

The stamp is red and stands out as a reminder to assure that nurses give patient education to each stroke patient or their family member. As the education is provided, each of the categories is checked off and initialed by the educator. The stamp reads as follows:

#### STROKE PATIENT EDUCATION

\_\_\_\_\_ Blood Pressure  
\_\_\_\_\_ Diet  
\_\_\_\_\_ Exercise  
\_\_\_\_\_ Stroke Education  
\_\_\_\_\_ Smoking  
\_\_\_\_\_ Importance of medications  
\_\_\_\_\_ Importance of f/u MD appts.

For some hospitals this could serve as a reminder to cover all the above listed topics, but might not be acceptable as proper documentation. Please be sure to check with your medical records department manager to determine whether this stamp would provide proper documentation for your hospital.