



- State Highlights on pages 2
- Workgroup highlights on page 3
- Resources on page 4

We're on the web!
<http://ghrsn.uic.edu>



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: EMS Acute Stroke Care Toolkit

The EMS Acute Stroke Care Toolkit is a comprehensive analysis of an EMS System's stroke patient's demographics and care for the date range indicated above. This report provides a description of the care provided by the EMS System from several perspectives. Included in this EMS Toolkit is an analysis of

EMS System performance, individual EMS personnel performance, and EMS patient care. Included in this Toolkit are comparative Benchmarks with other similar EMS Systems and with the entire state of North Carolina, where this toolkit was created.

This Toolkit is divided into many sections repre-

senting a different component of an EMS System, its personnel, or patient care. With each section of this Toolkit, interventions are recommended based on the analysis of each EMS System. Each EMS System is encouraged to review this report fully along with the recommended interventions which could lead

Story continued on last page.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

State Advisory Board
March 6, 2008
1PM CST/2PM EST

Quality of Care Work
Group
February 27, 2008
Noon CST/1PM EST

Evaluation/Surveillance
Work Group
February 28, 2008
9AM CST/10AM EST

Quality of Care Calls
January 31, 2008 Improving
Stroke Care at your critical
access hospital/rural
(CAH). Pat Bierry, RN, from
Tipton Hospital in Indiana
and Donna Sexton, RN, from

Save the Date

Bedford
Regional in Indiana
will be presenting. CEUs
available. Register by
emailing gwtg@heart.org.

2. April 10, 2008. Drip &
Ship. Presenters: Sheila
Barr and Kristin Randall
from CEUs available. 1PM
CST/2PM EST. Co-
sponsored by AHA
GWTG.

3. Telemedicine Update.
March 20, 2008 at 1PM
CST/2PM EST. Dr. Elaine
Skalabrin of Utah, Connie
Parliament of Michigan, &
Dr. Greg Young will pre-
sent. 1PM CST/2PM EST.
Co-sponsored with Ohio
KePRO and AHA GWTG.

4. May 1, 2008. Beyond
the Hospital program call
for Primary Stroke Centers,
Coverdell Hospitals and
CAH. Margaret Rudisill,
RN will present.

5. Stroke Alert Day, May 6,
2008.

6. GLRSN Data Exchange.
May, 2008.

7. Post Stroke Depres-
sion, June 26, 2008. Dr.
Michael Schmitz from Min-
nesota. CEUs available.
1PM CST/2PM EST. Co-
sponsored with AHA
GWTG.

Please note that going forward, only 1 state will be featured in the State Updates.

Illinois

The Illinois Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program is a capacity building funded level state through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently, the program is working on several initiatives. Lead by Michael Gaines, MPA, additional staff includes Lynette Shaw, MEd, CHES. Both are located in Springfield, Illinois. Recently the program conducted a distance learning initiative entitled, "Getting to the Heart of Diabetes," in partnership with Illinois Department of Human Services, Diabetes Prevention & Control Program, Bureau of Family Nutrition and the American Heart Association, Greater Midwest Affiliate. Targeting registered nurses, registered dietitian/nutritionists, health educators, social workers, case managers, diabetes educators and interested persons; topics included: understanding the relationship of HTN to diabetes, heart disease and stroke, recognizing new heart disease and stroke risk intervention guidelines, identifying oral and injectable medication options for diabetes treatment, identifying barriers to controlling hypertension and glucose, and understanding the importance of developing healthy food habits and physical activity. If you were unable to view this event, please contact Lynette Shaw at lynette.shaw@illinois.gov for a copy of the program. Handouts are still available at www.chtc.org.

Another initiative involves partnering with the Illinois Hospital Association to update hospital administrators and community leaders on current prevention strategies and statistics related to heart disease and stroke in small and rural communities. The program will showcase best practice models for prevention activities within small and rural communities. The topics that the Illinois Hospital Association Small and Rural Education Committee agreed to are: High blood pressure, which would also include a focus on kids; Stroke issues; and Arthritis management, for those at risk of heart disease and stroke.

IDPH HDSP Program has also been involved in the organizational meeting for stroke triage and transport to Primary Stroke Centers which was convened by Dr. Mark Alberts of Northwestern Medical Hospital on December 17. Dr. Albert's objective for the meeting was to gain consensus from the Primary Stroke Centers in the city of Chicago that they are prepared to participate and work collaboratively with other stakeholders to begin acute stroke triage to their stroke centers. The goal of this first meeting was to review the nationally recognized guidelines for stroke systems of care and to engage stakeholders in a discussion of issues and solutions to ensure the best treatment for stroke patients in Chicago. Another meeting will be called in January 2008 for further discussion and as an overarching goal would look to move forward with a formal proposal to the Chicago Fire Department, EMS, and Chicago hospitals. While many details would need to be addressed, Dr. Alberts ask that this group begin with the statement of consensus and move forward as a coalition under the title of Chicago Area Stroke Task Force (CAST).

The Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program is also collaborating with the Illinois Rural Health Association to offer trainings to EMS providers for heart disease and stroke in rural areas of Illinois as well as with the Illinois Public Health Association, Office of Women's Health, American Heart to offer blood pressure trainings for healthcare professionals hosted by the City of Chicago, Richland Memorial Hospital in Olney, Illinois, and Southern 7 Health Department/Shawnee Community College. Through partnerships with the National Stroke Association and the Coalition of Limited Speaking English Elderly (CLESE), a Mock Stroke event will take place in Peoria on May 6, 2008) and translations of warning signs of heart disease and stroke will be done in Vietnamese and Greek, respectively. HDSP Program also coordinates the Illinois Stroke Task Force, a legislatively mandated group, that meets on a quarterly basis. The next meeting will be on Friday, March 14, 2008 from 10:00—11:30 AM.

To view the Illinois Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program Plan and Burden Document, please go to:

State Advisory Board

The State Advisory Board of the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network met in St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 16 and 17 for its annual strategic planning meeting. After reviewing progress of objectives for 2007-2008, the group reviewed the strategic map and developed strategies for 2008-2009. As the annual report is due to the CDC on March 12, additional grant related topics were also discussed. The group also provided updates on their progress for the Rehabilitation inventory and state stroke task forces; revised their policies and procedures manual; discussed strengthening the visibility of the Chair and added a vice chair position. The Promising Practices evaluation was also discussed and our CDC Project Officer, Ron Todd, conducted a short teleconference with the group.

Evaluation/Surveillance

The partnership evaluation project with RTI is wrapping up. RTI has been conducting interviews with HDSP Program Managers and other Network participants soon. Thank you to everyone who agreed to be interviewed. The online evaluation component has also been released. If you have not completed the evaluation, there is still time. The online component closes on January 31, 2008.

The Evaluation/Surveillance Work Group reviewed a rough draft of the 2008 Updated Burden Document. Some data is still being collected and a second draft will be reviewed during their next call on February 28, 2008 at 9:00 AM CST/10:00 AM EST. A revised Stroke Atlas is also being developed with updated data from Michigan.

Abstracts are being reviewed for the GLRSN data exchange to be held in May. Abstracts that are accepted will be notified by February 15.

Quality of Care

This work group met in December to review evaluations from previous quality of care calls. Additionally, this group decided to continue with calls aimed at Primary Stroke Center specific calls.

The next call for Primary Stroke Centers will be held on May 1, 2008. The Speaker will be Margaret Rudisill, RN, who will be discussing the "Beyond the Hospital" program. This initiative was developed by the NC Stroke Association and Stanly Regional Medical Center. In addition to an education manual containing information specific to each discipline involved in the treatment of stroke, there is a three-month follow-up questionnaire to determine if stroke survivors are retaining the information presented to them during their hospitalization. The next Quality of Care calls for all Network participants can be found on page one of The Wave.

EMS Notification & Response

The EMS Notification and Response Work Group reviewed a draft of the inventory of stroke policies for the Great Lakes Region. At the December meeting, they expressed an interest in learning more about the Maryland Institute of EMS (MIEMSS) Primary Stroke Center (PSC) Certification. John Young of MIEMSS will present via teleconference on March 12, 2008 at 9AM CST/10 AM EST. The MIEMSS PSC Certification program began in 2007. As of August 2007, MIEMSS has certified 23 number of Primary Stroke Centers in the State of Maryland. Mr. Young will provide an overview of the program including the history and next steps. If you are interested in attending this conference call, please contact Angela at hedworth@uic.edu to ensure adequate phone lines.

In addition, Dr. Greg Meares will be presenting on June 5, 2008, about the EMS Acute Stroke Care Toolkit. See story on Pages 1 & 4.

to EMS System stroke care improvement. After an intervention has been implemented within an EMS System and 3 to 6 months of EMS data (depending on the incidence of Stroke) has been collected within PREMIS, the EMS System should generate the EMS Acute Stroke Toolkit again. The repeated use of this toolkit will allow each EMS System to measure and monitor its performance and improvement.

Any questions regarding this EMS Acute Stroke Care Toolkit or any other Toolkit product should be directed to the EMS Performance Improvement Center at www.EMSPIC.org. Go to http://www.emspic.org/ems_toolkits/ov_mocktoolkits.htm to download the entire mock kit.

Dr. Greg Meares will be explaining this toolkit in a call on June 5, 2008 for the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network. For more information, contact Angela.

Additional Resources

New Hypertension Screening Card for Pediatric and Adolescent Age Groups
Pediatricians, pediatric nurses, school health personnel, and health care services for children and adolescents will find a valuable new resource in the Pocket Guide to Blood Pressure Measurement in Children (Pocket Guide). This colorful, laminated card covers ages 3 to 17 and gives the cut points for stages of hypertension for each gender-age-height subgroup. It updates the tables from the Fourth Report on the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure in Children and Adolescents (Fourth Report) with new features. Order the Pocket Guide (item # 07-5268) at <http://email.nhlbihin.net/product2.asp?sku=07-5268> for ONLY \$1.50 each.

Stroke Mortality Reduction

The American Heart Association has recently shared that new mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that, since 1999, coronary heart disease and stroke age-adjusted death rates are down by 25.8 percent and 24.4 percent, respectively. The 2005 mortality report can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56

[/nvsr56_10.pdf](#).

Training Opportunity in Stroke Epidemiology

The Appalachia Institute of Epidemiology will be held on May 12-16, in Johnson City Tennessee.

<http://www.etsu.edu/scs/AppIETI/courses.htm> Besides public health practice classes on GIS, genetics, and Social Context, we offer a Stroke Epidemiology class. Our target audience is state and regional-based public health epidemiologists. Dr. Dilip Pandey from the University of Illinois will teach the stroke epidemiology class this year; he will include content specifically about Coverdell stroke registries. Tuition is \$400 before March 31; a limited number of scholarships are available for state employees. Please respond to Dr. Tim Aldrich, at East Tennessee State University Aldrich@etsu.edu or through the web-page if you would like more information.

Are you attending the International Stroke Conference or the Nursing Symposium in New Orleans in February? Would you look to Network with other health care professionals from the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network that will be attending? If so, contact Angela Hedworth at hedworth@uic.edu for more information.