

ASSURING PROVEN EMERGENCY THERAPY TO PREVENT DISABILITY AND SPEED RECOVERY FROM STROKE

Focus on training increases the use of recognized stroke care guidelines

Public Health Problem

- Stroke is a top cause of disability and accounts for more than 26,000 deaths in the Great Lakes region every year.
- Less than ten percent of eligible stroke victims get the emergency therapy called tPA that can prevent serious disability and lead to a more complete recovery.
- Ensuring that the Great Lakes region's residents have access to early, appropriate stroke treatment, such as the use of tPA, is essential to reducing disability and costs.

Program

- Supported with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network partnered with state heart disease and stroke prevention programs, Paul Coverdell Acute Stroke Registries, and healthcare organizations to conduct regional stroke quality of care teleconferences. The Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network was developed by cardiovascular program staff and state stroke task force members from state health departments in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin to increase stroke awareness and prevention and control activities in the region.
- In collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association *Get With The Guidelines* program, the partners organized the teleconferences to promote the value to health care institutions of applying continuous quality improvement to their performance related to stroke treatment and prevention. Staff and financial support was supplied by healthcare organizations in the region.

Impact

- As one participating hospital reports, the teleconference education has “saved patients from major disabilities as we have started to see an increase in tPA usage” and the teleconference method “conserves staff and financial resources.”
- Over three years, more than 3200 people have participated in the stroke quality of care teleconferences, a cost-effective way to reach busy health professionals and health care staff to improve the quality of stroke care.
- The National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention gave the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network the “Heart Healthy Stroke Free Award” for their work that “embodies the recommendations of the national *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*.”
- 41% - 75% plan to implement changes in their facility as a result of these calls.

Contact

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