



Brain Matters

*Increase the competence and confidence[®]
of healthcare providers in the early recognition
and initial treatment of stroke patients.*



SIMSUITE[®]
MEDICAL SIMULATION CORPORATION

Stroke

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the U.S., affecting 700,000 Americans and accounting for over 143,000 deaths annually. With timely treatment, the risk of death and disability from stroke can be lowered. The SimSuite Stroke Program focuses on early recognition of symptoms and appropriate initial treatment of stroke patients to improve patient outcomes, based on American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) Get With the Guidelines Program: Target Stroke. The Program is authored by Anne Alexandrov, PhD, RN, CCRN, FAAN.

Web-based Course

The SimSuite Stroke Web Course is designed to educate participants on the research-based guidelines for the identification of symptoms associated with stroke and the initial care of stroke patients. This course is suitable for physicians, nurses, and technologists who care for patients in critical and noncritical units. This course may be completed on its own, and also prepares providers for the Stroke Simulation Workshop. 1.5 CE

Simulation Workshop

The SimSuite Stroke Simulation Workshop is led by an MSC Clinical Educator or a hospital-based educator. The workshop includes a didactic review of the AHA/ASA guidelines and simulation training using a Laerdal SimMan®. Simulation scenarios allow participants to apply the guidelines to patient care scenarios in a team-based environment, improving team communication. Simulation may also improve the standardization of care, contributing to hospital-based process and quality improvement. Multiple simulation scenarios allow participants to practice identifying and caring for stroke patients and patients presenting with signs and symptoms that mimic stroke. *Approximate time for completion: 3-4 hours.*

Participants and Training Objectives

The goal of this program is to increase and reinforce the competence and confidence of all healthcare team members associated with the identification and initial care of stroke patients. Participants may include physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and technologists.

Upon completion of the program, participants should be able to:

- Summarize the significance of epidemiological factors in the treatment of stroke.
- Differentiate the pathology of ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes with their associated risk factors, signs, and symptoms.
- Prioritize evaluation and treatment tasks during the initial onset of stroke utilizing the recommended time goals from the American Stroke Association.
- Recall rapid assessment techniques and diagnostic studies that may indicate or rule out the presence of stroke.

- Apply stroke management principles when given a scenario of a patient demonstrating the new onset of stroke symptoms.
- Describe the basic Joint Commission requirements of a hospital's designation as a primary stroke center.

Benefits

- Documentation of staff competence and compliance
- Consistent training across all staff
- Integration into Quality Improvement Programs
- Establishment of protocols
- Program based on guidelines, tools, and research from the AHA, ASA, and The Joint Commission

Clinical Applicability

Advances in diagnosis and treatment of stroke have decreased the stroke death rate by over 20 percent over the past 15 years; however, stroke remains the third leading cause of death in the U.S., a leading cause of long-term disability, and a significant economic burden.

- Stroke has an associated mortality rate of 23 percent.
- Medical costs associated with stroke are \$28 billion annually.
- The average cost of care for a stroke patient in the first 90 days after a stroke is \$15,000.
- Achieving Joint Commission Stroke Center Certification can positively impact hospitals' community relations, employee relations, and other business efforts.

The Joint Commission Stroke Center Certification

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification Program recognizes healthcare centers that make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care. The SimSuite Stroke Program conforms to The Joint Commission Standards in the "Urgent Care Assessment" domain within the Stroke Center Program, including early identification and initial treatment of stroke patients. The complete SimSuite Stroke Program provides four hours of education that may help hospitals meet The Joint Commission's requirements for employees who directly touch potential stroke patients.*

*This statement has not been reviewed by The Joint Commission, nor has the SimSuite Stroke Program been reviewed or approved by the Joint Commission as part of the Stroke Center Certification Program.

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, Inc., an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. AORN recognized this activity as continuing education for registered nurses. This recognition did not imply that AORN or the ANCC Commission on Accreditation approved or endorsed any product included in the presentation.

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