



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.

Web-based Curriculum

The Web-based Stroke 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 and can be completed online anytime, anywhere. This course may be completed on its own, and also prepares providers for the Stroke Simulation Workshop. *Approximate time for completion: 1 hour.*

Simulation Workshop

The Stroke Simulation Workshop includes a brief didactic review of the Web-based course, an overview of specific documentation and procedures used by your hospital for the identification and initial treatment of stroke patients, and simulation training using a human patient simulator. Multiple simulation scenarios allow participants to practice recognizing signs and symptoms associated with stroke, and initial care of stroke patients in the hospital setting. *Approximate time for completion: 3 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:

- Identify the significance of epidemiological factors in the treatment of stroke.
- Differentiate the pathology and classic symptoms between types of strokes.
- Match risk factors with the associated type of stroke.
- Identify stroke symptoms and recognize conditions that frequently mimic symptoms of stroke.
- Prioritize evaluation and treatment tasks necessary during the initial time of stroke onset.
- Apply the recommended time goals for determination of treatment and initiation of thrombolytic therapy.
- Recall rapid assessment techniques that may indicate or rule out the presence of stroke.
- Recall basic requirements by The Joint Commission for a hospital designated as a Primary Stroke Center.
- Apply initial blood pressure goals for a patient with ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke to a complicated stroke management scenario.

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 American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, and Brain Attack Coalition
- The Stroke continuing education activity was approved by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, Inc., for 1.5 contact hours. AORN is an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

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.

For more information, contact HealthcareGroup@medsimulation.com.



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Medical Simulation Corporation
4643 S. Ulster Street, Suite 650
Denver, Colorado 80237
t: 303.483.2800
www.medsimulation.com