From the Stroke Desk

HFAP Website
HFAP would like to refresh its stroke certification webpage. We are seeking ideas on what you would like to see, be it different colors, content or resources! Send us your feedback at stroke@hfap.org.

PSC Manual v3
The Primary Stroke Certification manual’s proposed changes are currently undergoing a review by the expert panel. Experts include MDs, DOs, NPs and RNs with specialty in neuroscience. Once reviewed by the panel, the manual changes will be submitted to the Bureau of Healthcare Facilities Accreditation for ratification. Version 3 will then be released in April 2014.

Congratulations to Two New HFAP Primary Stroke Centers
Franciscan St Anthony in Crown Point, Indiana and Franciscan St Anthony in Michigan City, Indiana.

Spotlight on HFAP Stroke Reviewer
Deborah S. Bridgeman, RN, MSN
Deborah (Debby) Bridgeman has over 12 years of experience as a Stroke Program Coordinator and over 21 years of experience as a registered nurse.

Bridgeman has worked to implement stroke protocols and processes since 1995. She received her nursing degree from the University of South Carolina Upstate and has worked in the areas of neurology, critical care, case management and geriatrics. She graduated with Master of Science in Nursing in August 2013.

Bridgeman has served as a leader for the stroke program and currently serves as chairperson for the Stroke Advisory Committee at her organization. She has contributed to all aspects of the clinical evidence-based stroke program development and was instrumental in obtaining certification as the first primary stroke center in South Carolina. She continually proposes processes or system improvements through her data gathering, analysis and reporting.

Bridgeman works closely with nursing staff to educate and to ensure that patients receive evidence-based care. To assist in providing stroke education for professionals across the state, she coordinated the Upstate Stroke Conference for two years; served on the planning committee for the American Stroke Association’s Get with the Guidelines stroke conferences for four years and the Brain Attack Workshop for 14 years; served as the first facilitator for the SC Stroke Learning Network (SCSLN); and serves as a member of the SCSLN advisory committee.

In 2005, she was selected to serve on a panel to “Analyze Future Stroke Therapies” during a quality forum with AstraZeneca. Debby was awarded the 2006 South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award in nursing for her efforts in stroke process improvement and outcomes management. She presented on the topic of Stroke Center Certification at the National Stroke Associations Southeastern Regional Nurse Meeting in 2006.

She participated in the South Carolina AHA/ASA Vascular Networking group and the SCDHEC Cardiovascular and Stroke Health Stakeholders meeting, and the South Carolina Stroke Systems Task Force. She was appointed to serve on the South Carolina legislative committee for the development of recommendations for stroke care; this committee’s work lead to the South Carolina Stroke Prevention Act of 2011 being passed into law. She also sees the importance of advocating on behalf of stroke at the federal level. She participated with the American Heart/American Stroke Association’s You’re the Cure on the Hill to support continued National Institute of Health funding and for building healthier lives to prevent heart disease and stroke.

_Bridgeman facilitated the March HFAP Stroke Coordinator Sharing Practice Teleconference._
HFAP Stroke Review Tips

HFAP has several hospitals approaching first-time stroke certification. Below are some tips on what to expect and how best to prepare for a stroke review.

Presentation
Provide a 10-15 minute presentation on your stroke center’s achievements and program highlights. Avoid lengthy presentations – be specific and keep it brief.

The reviewers are onsite for the purpose of reviewing all the standards and will need as much time as possible to complete the review in its entirety.

If you have any concerns about the progress of your program, now is a good time to briefly mention the challenge and your working solution so there are no surprises!

Space
Ensure the reviewers have an office with electrical outlets and Wi-Fi to work. They will also need some “alone time” to meet real-time reporting obligations.

Organization
Have all your documents ready in folders with tabs that demonstrate how you comply with the standard, so you are not searching for papers or information from one end of the hospital to the other.

Keep it Brief
Avoid elaborating and giving opinions. Have confidence in your knowledge and your clinical practice. If you don’t know the answer to a question, it’s okay to refer to a resource.

Stroke Team
Provide a list of all stroke team members with their designations. Define how the team covers all areas of the hospital, such as the ED, admitting area, etc.

Involvement
Be able to show how the multi-disciplinary team members are involved in the development and review of policies, procedures and care protocols.

Environment
Walk through the “patient flow” with the reviewer, showing how patient care progresses through each department. This should include EMS involvement prior to patient arrival, the emergency room, and laboratory, imaging, and pharmacy involvement. Also, include how the patient transitions to intensive care unit, the stroke unit and, when applicable, to surgery and rehabilitation. Explain the processes if the patient requires transfer to a higher level of care and provide a copy of the transfer agreement.

Note: if your rehabilitation services are specialty accredited and the rehab is performed offsite or at another end of the building, it is not necessary for the reviewer to visit the location. However, you will be required to show evidence of the accreditation.

Patient Care
Demonstrate how patient care is delivered according to applicable protocols. Patient care will be validated through observation and during the medical record review.

Medical Record Review
During the medical record review, the reviewer will need to see evidence that all required education elements are documented in the plan of care and provided to the patient and significant other.

Medical records should provide supporting documentation that the various elements of care protocols are implemented and meet defined timelines. Assure that the discharge plan reflects all required elements as well.

Education
Show how each group of staff and physicians have individually met their hourly educational requirements for the year. For example, if the emergency physician on the stroke team has attended a conference, what segments in the conference and how many hours of the conference met the stroke education requirement?

QAPI
Quality review focuses on clinical processes and outcomes compared to benchmarks. Discuss how you have improved and sustained your performance. If this is a repeat survey, give special attention to improvements into correction of any prior deficiencies if they exist.

Breathe
You have done the hard work; it is time to let your program shine. Let your experts speak to the wonderful care you are providing your patients.

Stroke Review Tips written by Carol Roesch, Stroke Reviewer.
Stroke Awareness Month Webinars
The following webinars are hosted by Corazon for Corazon Stroke Awareness Month. Register online.

Atypical Stroke Risk Factors
Tuesday, May 8, 1pm - 2:30pm EDT
This session will briefly review common stroke risks, such as smoking, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and then more deeply explore recently identified "atypical" stroke risks. The discussion will summarize findings from expansive research regarding causes of stroke, as well as why certain factors are now being considered among stroke risks and how they can be managed or eliminated. Participants will obtain increased awareness of risk factors beyond those commonly identified and be able to utilize this knowledge for more comprehensive patient and community education sessions.

Comparative Analysis of Certifying Bodies
Tuesday, May 15, 1pm - 2:30pm EDT
This session will contrast and compare the requirements, certification methods, available resources, and overall experience associated with pursuit of formal certification as a Stroke Ready Hospital, Primary Stroke Center, or Comprehensive Stroke Center through the Joint Commission, Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program, and DNV, respectively. Corazon experts will provide a breakdown of the distinct data elements necessary for each of the entities. Case studies of sample organizations and their experiences with each entity will also be presented. Participants will become familiar with a readiness grid that can be used as a tool in determining the certifying body most suitable for a specific organization.

2013 Stroke Program Survey Findings
Tuesday, May 22, 1pm - 2:30pm EDT
In late 2013, Corazon conducted a study related to data collection for stroke programs and the time required to maintain certification. Findings show the intense need for the development of standardized processes as a means to minimize the impact of data requirements. The survey found that, in many organizations, data collection can impede patient care and that inefficiencies in data prevent real-time improvements. Join Corazon for a discussion of these findings as well as a brief demonstration of the Cerebros stroke patient management application and its impact in these key program areas.

Walkthrough of a Stroke Readiness Assessment
Tuesday, May 29, 1pm - 2:30pm EDT
Corazon speakers will summarize key points of the previous presentations to identify the key components of a quality stroke program and critical areas of focus for best practice patient care and top quality outcomes. The session will review the process of a readiness assessment as the means to determine how prepared your organization may be for stroke program certification. The information shared will also be valuable to existing programs as they review their current processes and identify areas for improvement.

RN Certification Programs
Hemispheres Stroke Competency
Hemispheres Stroke Competency Series is a unique, visually interactive and comprehensive online educational series.

Eight separate courses within the series cover Brain Anatomy and Physiology, Stroke Pathophysiology, Pre-Hospital and ED Stroke, In-Hospital Ischemic Stroke, In-Hospital Hemorrhagic Stroke, Stroke Prevention, Excellence in Stroke Care, and the NIH Stroke Scale Training and Certification.

Hemispheres includes post-level testing as well as 38 CNE for nursing, 38 CME for physicians and 30 CEH for pre-hospital personnel.

Apex provides administrator reporting and benchmarking for organizations that utilize the program for their organization. Supports all stroke performance measures, guidelines and stroke educational initiatives to improve stroke outcomes, prepare staff, and achieve and maintain Stroke Center Certification.

Neuroscience Nursing Review Intensive CE Series
This program provides an extensive review of the CNRN exam for neuroscience nursing. The online modules are endorsed by the AANN and commence May 15, 2014. Review the course for more details.

Neurovascular RN (NVRN) Review Course
UnityPoint Health St. Luke’s Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Ia.
April 28-29, 2014 | 8:00am - 5:00pm: Registration and Review. Cost is $275. Register online.
Stroke Update
April 2014

Stroke Awareness Month / Neuroscience Nurses Week
The month of May is Stroke Awareness Month and the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) would like to celebrate Stroke Center Nurses during Neuroscience Nurses Week.

ABNN Exam Application Deadlines
There are only three more deadlines left for CNRN & SCRN certification this year! Applications for each exam window must be submitted by the ABNN Office no later than 5:00pm CST.

July CNRN Exam Window: Application deadline is Friday, May 16, 2014.
September SCRN Exam Window: Application deadline is Friday, July 18, 2014.
October CNRN Exam Window: Application deadline is Friday, August 15, 2014.

Save the Date for Neuroscience Nurses Week
Celebrate your commitment during neuroscience nurses week, May 11-17, 2014! Visit the AANN website for events, programs and ideas for how to celebrate the passion of today's neuroscience nurse. Interested in purchasing CNRN or SCRN pins for your staff? Contact marketing manager Allison Begezda at abegezda@aann.org for information about a bulk discount.

Neuroscience Nursing Education: 47th Annual Educational Meeting
The call for abstracts for the 47th Annual Educational Meeting is open until May 15, 2014.

Join the AANN
Belong to AANN and join a family of nurses passionate about neuroscience. Advance your skill set and your profession as a member of AANN. Serve others through your membership.

Founded in 1968, the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, an organization of more than 4,500 members worldwide, is committed to working for the highest standard of care for neuroscience patients by advancing the science and practice of neuroscience nursing. AANN accomplishes this through continuing education, information dissemination, standard setting, and advocacy on behalf of neuroscience patients, families, and nurses.

When you belong to AANN, you gain access to benefits designed to help you advance both personally and professionally. AANN address the unique needs of the neuroscience nurse with programs, publications, and events not offered by any other professional association.

Learn more about the benefits of membership in AANN and join today!