

# Nursing's Role in Successful Stroke Care Transitions Across the Continuum: From Acute Care into the Community

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**American  
Stroke  
Association.**

A division of the  
American Heart Association.

# Disclosures

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Speaker for MedBridge

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McNeill Distinguished Professor  
University of North Carolina-  
Wilmington  
Wilmington, NC

Speaker for MedBridge

Co-I on Studies Funded by NINR and  
PCORI

# Objectives

Discuss stroke nursing care across the continuum

Identify cross-setting issues in stroke care transitions

Describe recommendations to leverage the impact of nursing in the health care delivery system

## Stroke

### TOPICAL REVIEW

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Section Editors: Janice L. Hinkle, RN, PhD, CNRN, and Elaine Miller, PhD, MN, BSN

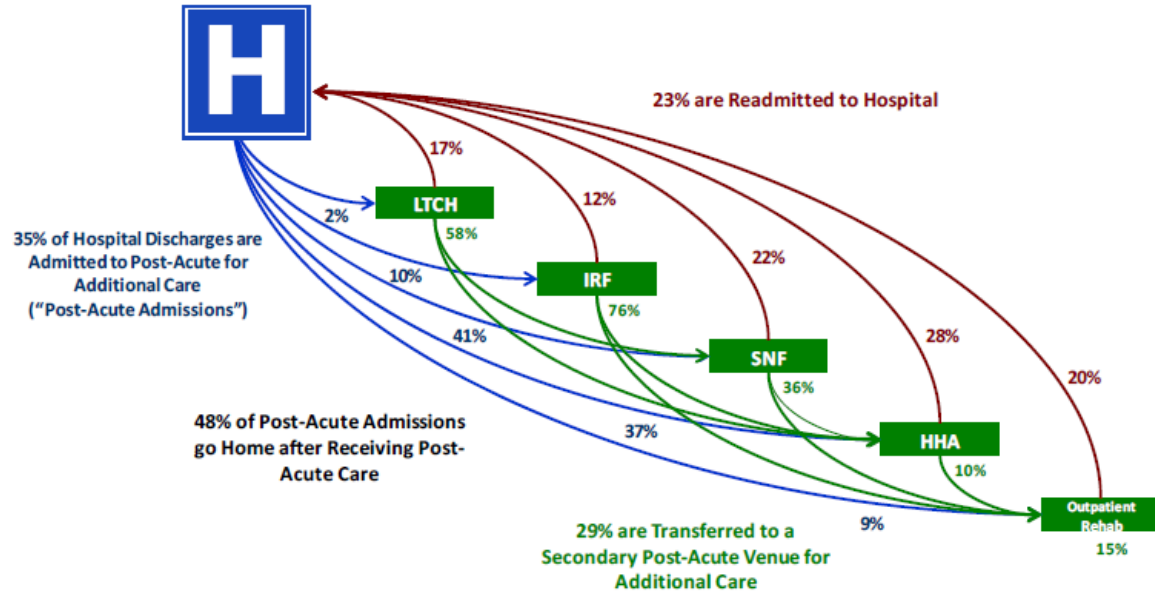
## Nursing's Role in Successful Stroke Care Transitions Across the Continuum: From Acute Care Into the Community

Michelle Camicia , PhD, RN, CRRN, CCM, NEA-BC; Barbara Lutz , PhD, RN, CRRN, PHNA-BC; Debbie Summers , MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, SCRNP, CNRN; Lynn Klassman , MSN, APN, CCRN, CCNS, CNRN; Stephanie Vaughn , PhD, RN, CRRN

# Background

Figure 12. Post-Acute Care Discharges and Acute Care Readmissions

3.1



Source: RTI International and Cain Brothers' analysis.

**Acute Care**



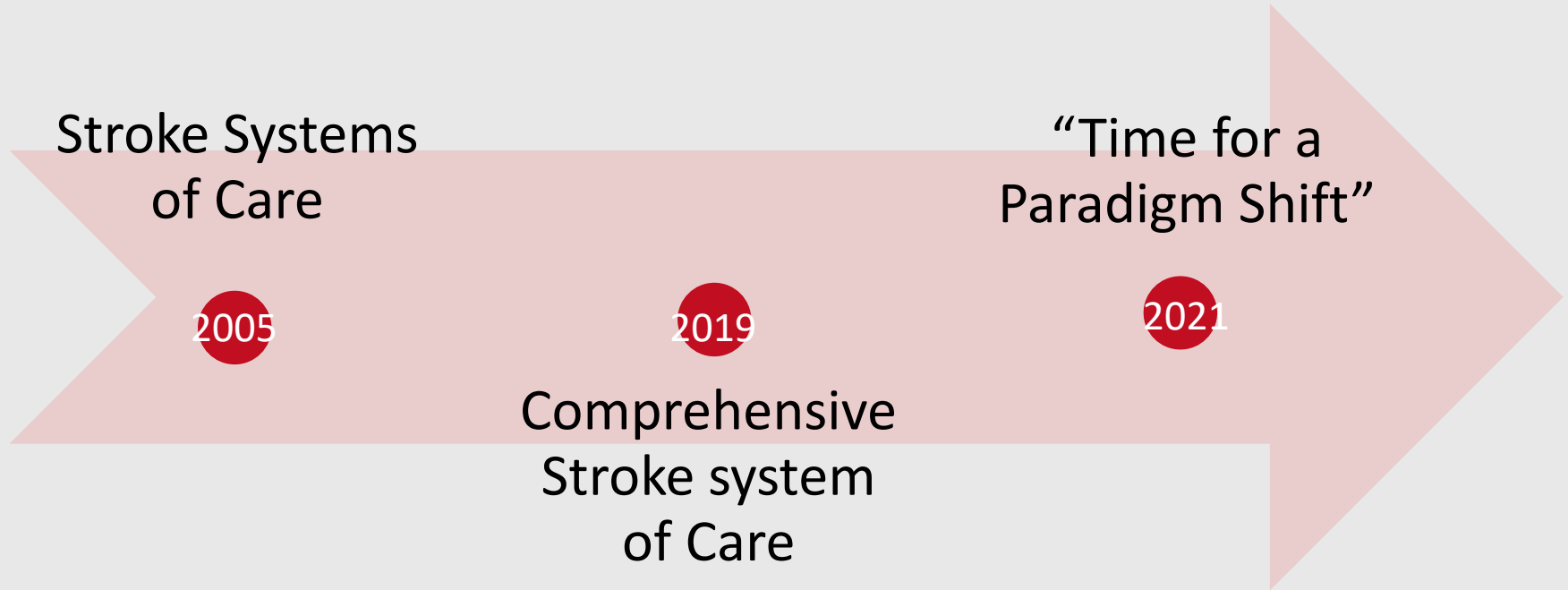
**Post-Acute Care**



**Home**



# Background



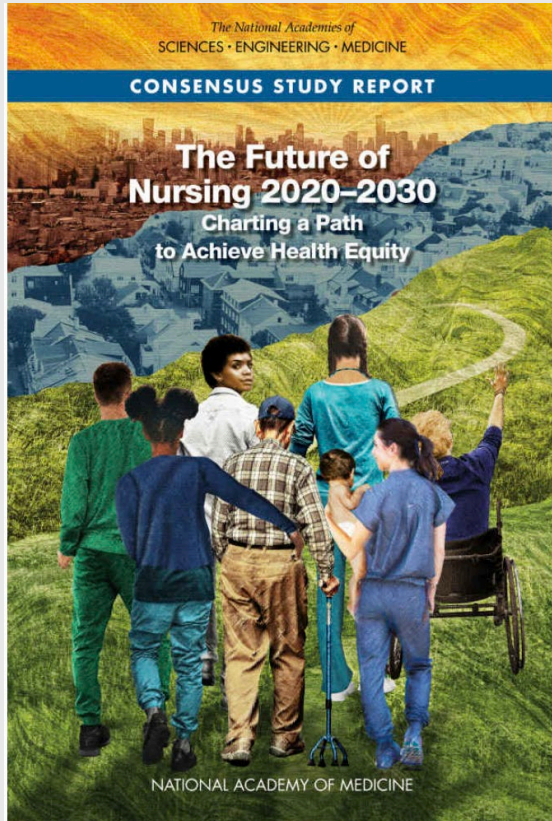
# Time for a Paradigm Shift

To transform comprehensive stroke care

Broaden the the focus of acute care guidelines to promote anticipatory guidance for patients with stroke and families about rehabilitation-related PAC options

Expanding the Get With the Guidelines Stroke program to include metrics related to rehabilitation readiness and 90-day post-discharge outcomes

Enhanced focus on prevention of recurrent stroke and optimizing functional recovery and participation in meaningful activities



Nurses performing care management, care coordination, & transitional care helps to:

- decrease fragmentation
- bolster communication
- improve care (quality and safety)

*A care management approach is particularly important for people such as those who have survived a stroke, with complex health and social needs, who may require care from multiple providers, medical follow-up, medication management, and assistance in addressing their social needs.*



# Nurse-Driven Acute Stroke Care



## Prehospital

- Stroke Recognition
- Pre-hospital screening
- Stroke severity scoring
- Appropriate level of care
- Outreach education
- Tele-stroke
- Mobile stroke unit

## ED

- Code Stroke
- Protocol and order set development
- Time is Brain

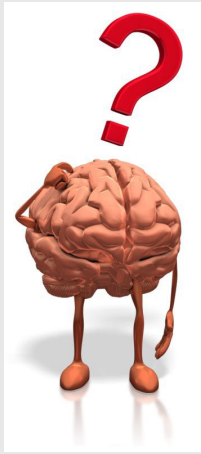
## Nurse RN, APN

## Process

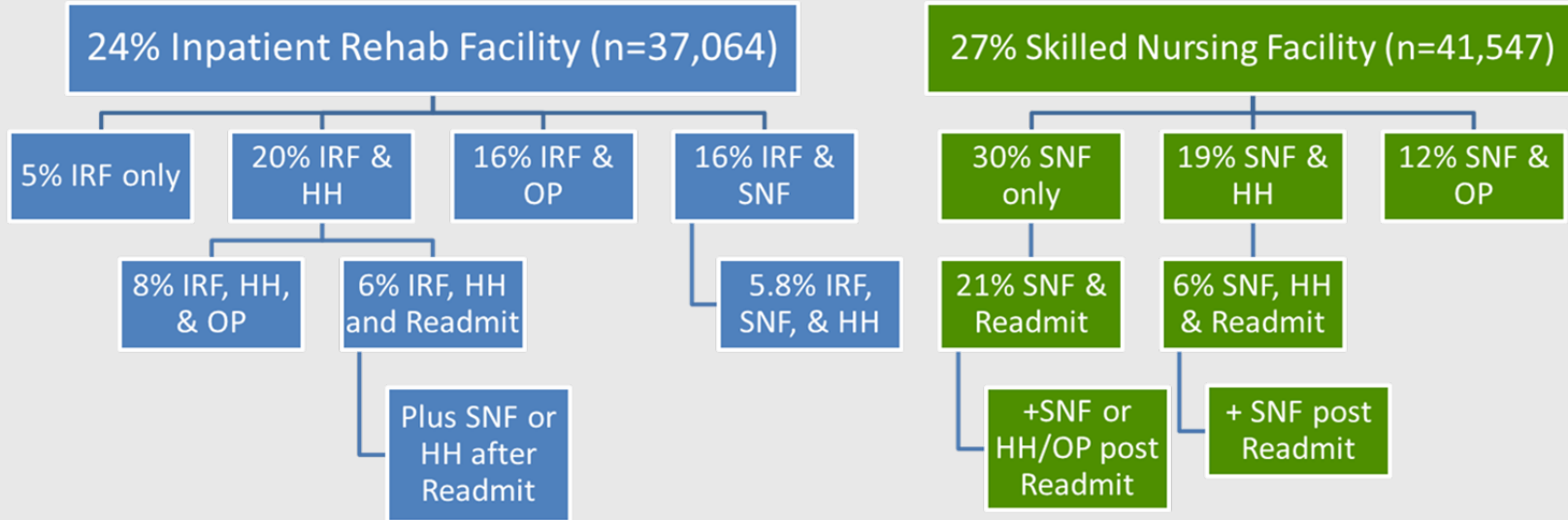
- Guideline development – Evidenced Based
- Future of Nursing 2020-2030 – practicing to full extent of education
- Nurse navigators /Case Management
- Educators – competency
- Stroke GWG Data collection
- Quality and Outcome
- Stroke Center Designation

## In Patient Care

- Radiology
- ICU
- Stepdown
- Stroke Unit



# Postacute Stroke Care



# IRF v. SNF

	IRF	SNF
MD Oversight	At least 3x/week	Seen by MD day 14; then every 30 days
RN Coverage	24 hours/day	8 hours/day
Therapy Provided	“Intensive” 3 hours per day	Varies; $\frac{3}{4}$ of days get at least 2.4 hours per day

## AHA/ASA Guideline

### **Guidelines for Adult Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery A Guideline for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association**

*Endorsed by the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the  
American Society of Neurorehabilitation*

*The American Academy of Neurology affirms the value of this guideline as an educational tool for  
neurologists and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine also affirms the educational value  
of these guidelines for its members*

*Accepted by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*

Carolee J. Winstein, PhD, PT, Chair; Joel Stein, MD, Vice Chair;  
Ross Arena, PhD, PT, FAHA; Barbara Bates, MD, MBA; Leora R. Cherney, PhD;  
Steven C. Cramer, MD; Frank Deruyter, PhD; Janice J. Eng, PhD, BSc; Beth Fisher, PhD, PT;  
Richard L. Harvey, MD; Catherine E. Lang, PhD, PT; Marilyn MacKay-Lyons, BSc, MScPT, PhD;  
Kenneth J. Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR; Sue Pugh, MSN, RN, CNS-BC, CRRN, CNRN, FAHA;  
Mathew J. Reeves, PhD, DVM, FAHA; Lorie G. Richards, PhD, OTR/L; William Stiers, PhD, ABPP (RP);  
Richard D. Zorowitz, MD; on behalf of the American Heart Association Stroke Council, Council  
on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing, Council on Clinical Cardiology, and Council on  
Quality of Care and Outcomes Research

# IRF v. SNF Outcomes

## Discharge to Community

- IRF > SNF                      Deutsch et al. (2006)
- Patients in IRF had ↑ odds of D/C to home compared to SNF      Hoenig et al. (2001)

## Functional Gain

- Functional gains IRF > SNF      Deutsch et al. (2006); Hong et al.(2019)
- Gain in ADLs IRF > SNF at 12 months                      Kane et al. (2000)
- Mobility, self-care, & cognition gains IRF > SNF      Chan et al. (2013)

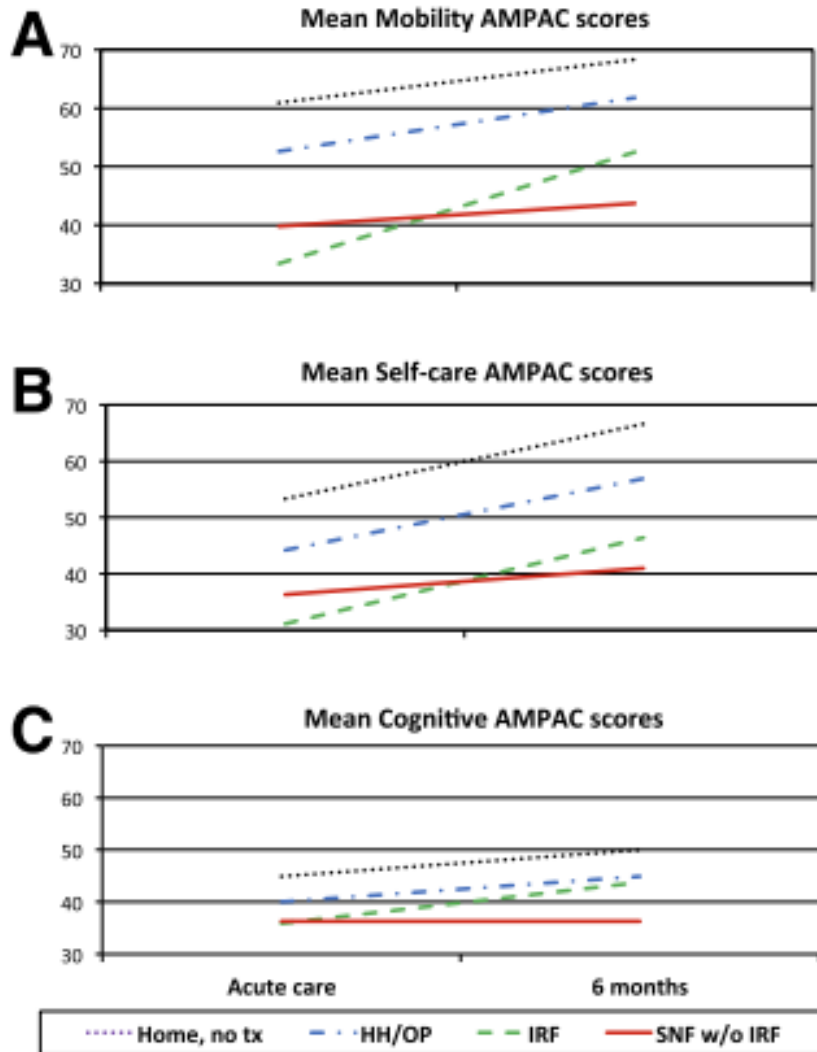


JOURNAL-BASED CME ARTICLE

## Does Postacute Care Site Matter? A Longitudinal Study Assessing Functional Recovery After a Stroke

Leighton Chan, MD, MPH,<sup>a</sup> M. Elizabeth Sandel, MD,<sup>b</sup> Alan M. Jette, PhD, PT,<sup>c</sup> Jed Appelman, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Diane E. Brandt, PhD, PT,<sup>a</sup> Pengfei Cheng, MS,<sup>d</sup> Marian TeSelle, MD,<sup>e</sup> Richard Delmonico, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Joseph F. Terdiman, MD, PhD,<sup>d</sup> Elizabeth K. Rasch, PhD, PT<sup>a</sup>

From the <sup>a</sup>National Institutes of Health, Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center, Rehabilitation Medicine Department, Bethesda, MD; <sup>b</sup>Kaiser Foundation Rehabilitation Center, Vallejo, CA; <sup>c</sup>Boston University Medical Campus, School of Public Health, Health & Disability Research Institute, Boston, MA; <sup>d</sup>Division of Research, The Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, Oakland, CA; and <sup>e</sup>Kaiser Permanente Capital Service Area, Sacramento, CA.



# IRF v. SNF

## Readmissions

- SNF readmission ~2-3 % > IRF up to 1 year Bettger et al. (2015)
- Predicted probabilities of readmit IRF < SNF in all racial groups Kind et al. (2010)

## Mortality

- Higher IRF vs SNF up to 1 year Bettger et al. (2015)
- IRF mortality ↓2.6% compared to SNF Buntin et al. (2010)
- Death in IRF < SNF in each racial/ethnic group Kind et al. (2010)
- Patients in IRF died at rate <1/2 of SNF Wang et al. (2011)

Kind AJ, Smith MA, Liou JJ, Pandhi N, Frytak JR, Finch MD. Discharge destination's effect on bounce-back risk in Black, White, and Hispanic acute ischemic stroke patients. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2010; 91:189-195. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2009.10.015; Stein J, Bettger JP, Sicklick A, Hedeman R, Magdon-Ismail Z, Schwamm LH. Use of a standardized assessment to predict rehabilitation care after acute stroke. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2015 Feb;96(2):210-7. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2014.07.403. Epub 2014 Aug 4. PMID: 25102387; Butin, Dan. (2010). Service-Learning in Theory and Practice: The Future of Community

Engagement. Education. 10.1057/9780230186154

# Transition to Home

- One of the most vulnerable times for stroke survivors and caregivers
- Smooth/seamless transitions optimize health and QOL outcomes
- However...
  - Quality of transitions is widely variable
- Understanding of influence of culture/ethnicity/race/religious preferences/gender identity
- Requires clear and frequent communication across IP team
- Can be facilitated by a transition specialist or stroke nurse liaison/navigator





# Transition to Home: Evidence-Based Interventions

Early supported  
discharge

Pre-discharge  
home visits

Discharge  
checklists

Comprehensive  
stroke education

Identification of  
transition  
barriers/challenges

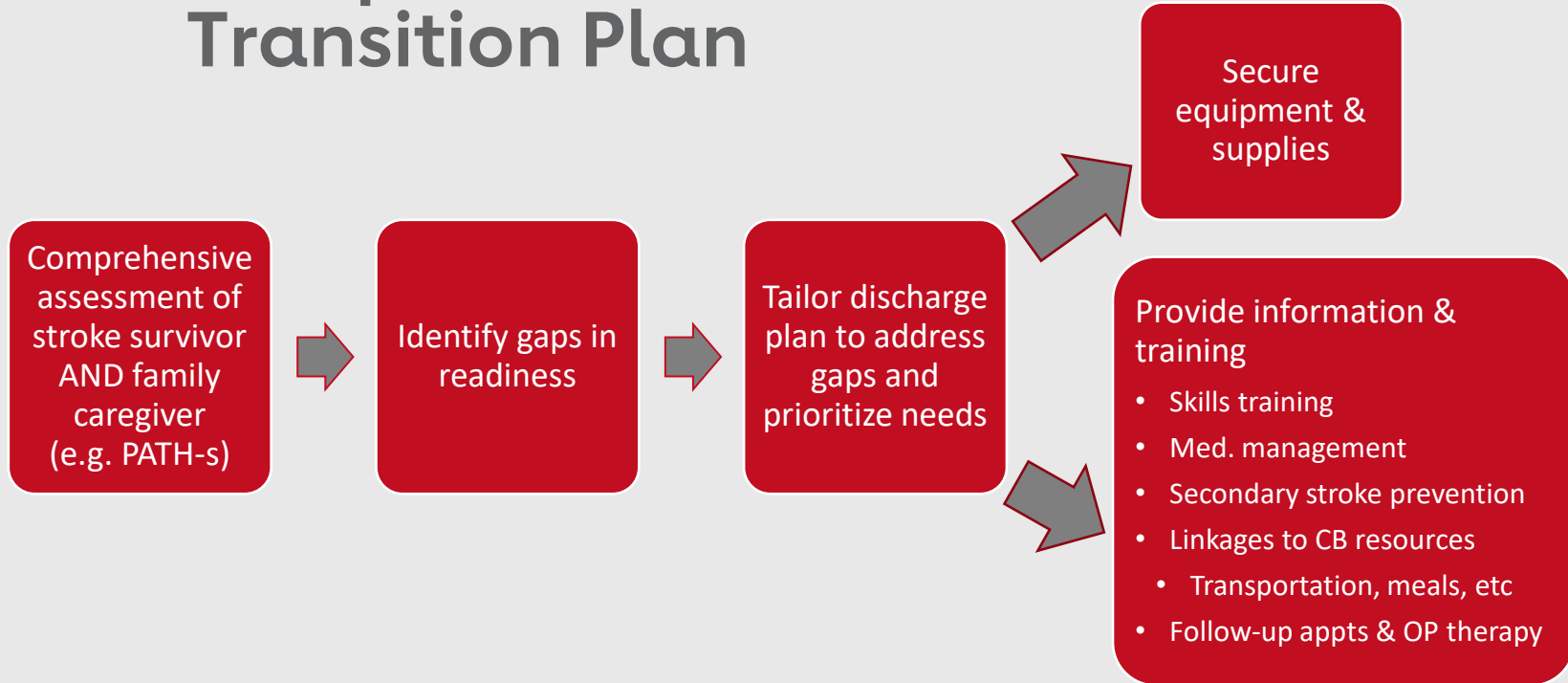
Linkages to  
community  
resources /  
networks

APN-led models  
can reduce  
readmissions



Post-Stroke Checklist 

# Components of Transition Plan



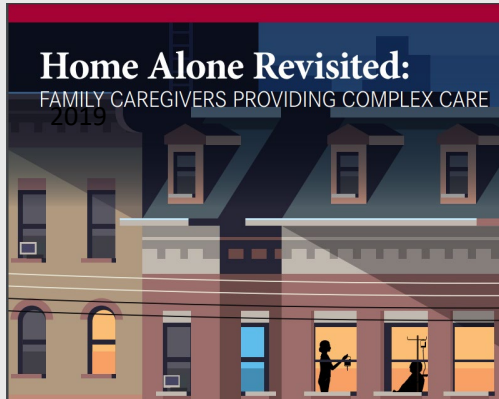
# Cross-Setting Issues in Stroke Care Transitions



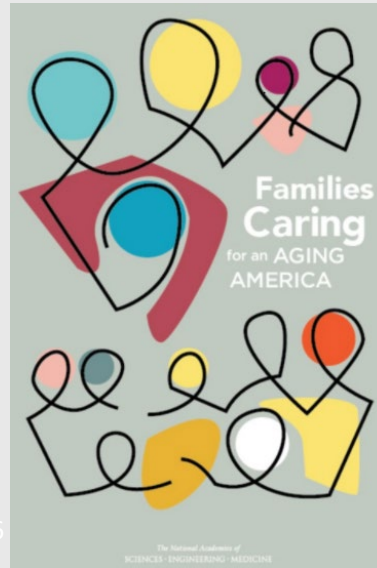
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# Assessing & Addressing CG Needs: National Recommendations



2016



## Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, & Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act Initial Report to Congress

Prepared by: RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council  
With assistance from: Administration for Community Living,  
an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



September 22, 2021



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## Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging

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### Valuing the Invaluable 2019 Update: Charting Path Forward

by Susan Reinhard, Lynn Friss Feinberg, Ari Houser, Rita Choula, Molly Evans, **Public Policy Institute**, November 14, 2019

### Caregiving for Family and Friends — A Public Health Issue



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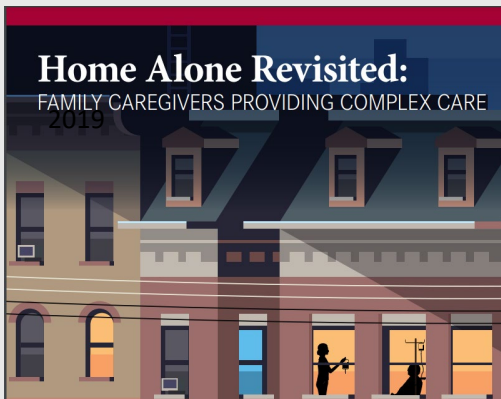
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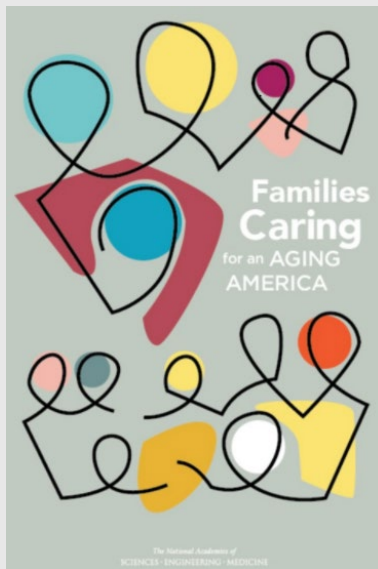
Healthy Brain Resource Center

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# Assessing & Addressing CG Needs: National Recommendations



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September 22, 2021

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CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™

### Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging

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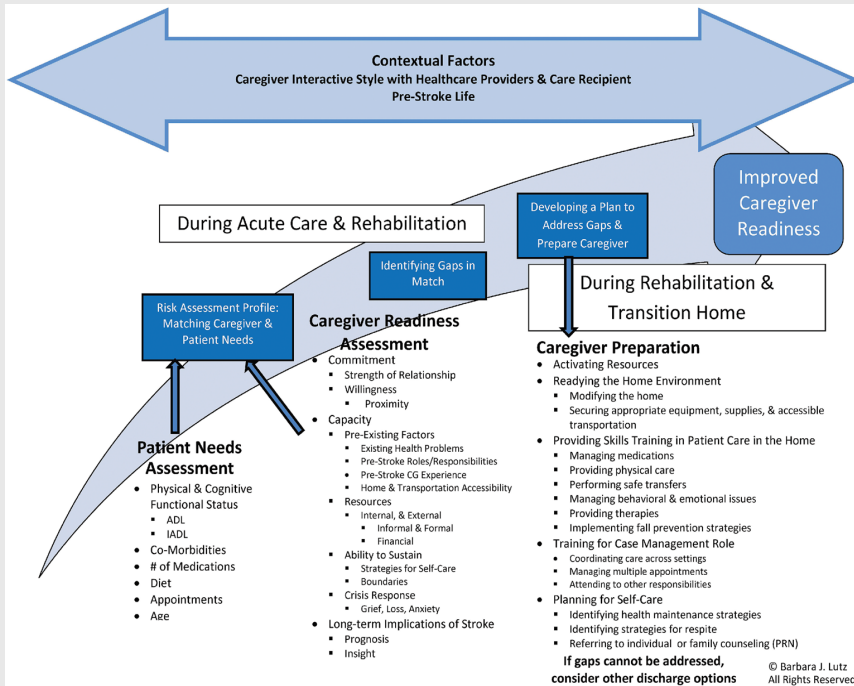


# Assessing the Needs of Family Caregivers

# Development of the PATH-s<sup>®</sup> Instrument

## Preparedness Assessment for the Transition Home after Stroke

Available @ [www.rehabnurse.org/pathtool](http://www.rehabnurse.org/pathtool)



- 25-item instrument
- Assesses caregiver readiness to provide care post-discharge
- Guides development of discharge care plan
- Completed during inpatient care
- Grounded in the *Improving Caregiver Readiness Model*
- Scoring: 1-4

# Developing a Tailored Care Plan

1. How much do you understand about how the patient's recovery over the next 6 months?

- **Discuss medical and functional prognosis per MD. Support hope --PM&R**

4. How much do you understand about what assistance the patient will need with personal care (such as bathing, using the toilet, dressing, and moving around) when she goes home?

- **Discussion of deficits and functional limitations. --Therapy**

5. How much experience have you had providing physical help with personal care (such as bathing, using the toilet, dressing and moving around) for someone who has a disability?

- **Assist them with scheduling their time during rehab so can be present for observing care and attend to self-care and other personal required activities/commitments (e.g. outstanding physician visits and other personal needs/obligations) --CM**

6. How prepared are you to provide the patient assistance with personal care (such as bathing, using the toilet, dressing and moving around) when she goes home?

- **Suggest observe therapy and nursing staff providing assistance with mobility and other ADL care - CM**

# Community Resource Networks: Key to Smooth Transitions

## Includes:

- Outpatient therapies
- Home-delivered meals
- Transportation
- Financial assistance
- Assistance with household tasks
- CB exercise programs
- Support groups



Can be  
formal or  
informal



Goes  
beyond  
giving SS  
and CGs a  
list



Requires  
REAL  
connections  
with CB  
service  
providers



# Additional Online Resources for Stroke Survivors and Family Caregivers

## Resources for Patients and Family Caregivers

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses	Making the Right Decision for Rehabilitation Care: <a href="https://restartrecovery.org/uploads/ARN_Consumer_Trans_Brochure_final.pdf">https://restartrecovery.org/uploads/ARN_Consumer_Trans_Brochure_final.pdf</a>
AHA/ASA	<a href="https://www.stroke.org/en/about-stroke">https://www.stroke.org/en/about-stroke</a> Stroke Support Network: <a href="https://supportnetwork.heart.org">https://supportnetwork.heart.org</a>
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada	<a href="https://www.strokebestpractices.ca/resources/patient-resources">https://www.strokebestpractices.ca/resources/patient-resources</a> <a href="https://www.heartandstroke.ca/stroke">https://www.heartandstroke.ca/stroke</a>
VA Rescue Stroke Caregiving	<a href="https://www.stroke.cindrr.research.va.gov/">https://www.stroke.cindrr.research.va.gov/</a>
World Stroke Organization	<a href="https://www.world-stroke.org/carer">https://www.world-stroke.org/carer</a>

# Patient and Family Education

## Stroke Survivor Top Educational needs

Stroke signs, symptoms, and prevention

Treatment modalities and medications

Stroke recovery and return to work

Causes of stroke

Providing physical care to the stroke survivor, including transfers, lifting, and personal care

## Critical Stroke Survivor Educational Needs

Functional needs (eg, cognitive changes, depression, pain, and fatigue)

Activity and participation (eg, walking, driving, and leisure activities)

Environmental concerns (eg, safety/falls prevention; medication administration; communicating with providers).

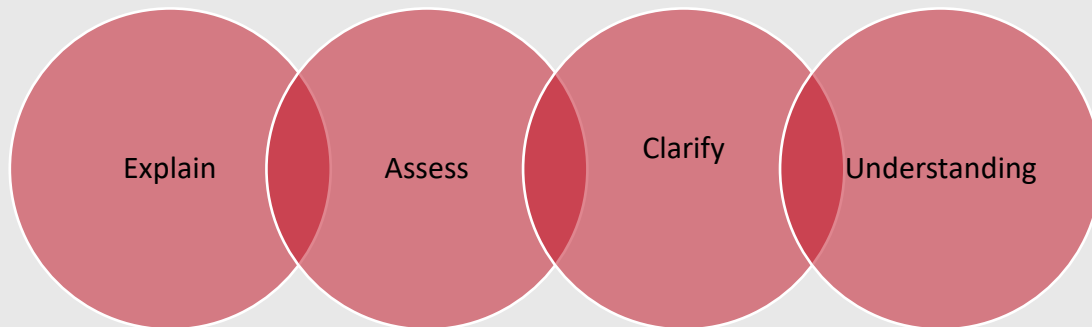
# Patient and Family Education

*Use the teach-back with all patient populations across the spectrum of health literacy.*

AHRQ  
Health Literacy  
Universal  
Precautions Toolkit



Second  
Edition



# Standardized Patient and Family Education



**let's talk about stroke** Recovery

## Changes Caused by Stroke

Your brain controls how you move, feel, communicate, think and act. Brain injury from a stroke may affect any of these abilities. Some changes are common no matter which side of the brain the injury is on. Others are based on which side of the brain the stroke injures.

**What are the most common general effects of stroke?**

- Hemiparesis (weakness on one side of the body) or hemiplegia (paralysis on one side of the body)
- Dysarthria (difficulty speaking or slurred speech), or dysphagia (trouble swallowing)
- Fatigue
- Loss of emotional control and changes in mood
- Cognitive changes (problems with memory, judgment, problem-solving or a combination of these)
- Behavioral changes (personality changes, improper language or actions)
- Decreased field of vision (difficulty to see peripheral vision) and trouble with visual perception

**What are common changes with a right-brain injury?**

- Paralysis or weakness on the left side of the body
- One-sided neglect, which is a lack of awareness of the left side of the body. It may also be a lack of awareness of what is going on to the right side of their pt they may only eat from the right side of their plate.
- Behavior may be more impulsive and less cautious than before.
- It may be harder for the survivor to understand expressions and tone of voice. They also may have problems with their own face and tone of voice when communicating.

**What are common emotional effects of stroke?**

- Depression
- Apathy and lack of motivation
- Frustration, anger and sadness
- Pseudo-bulbar affect, also called reflex emotional lability (emotions may be exaggerated)

**let's talk about STROKE** Recovery

## Stroke and Aphasia

Aphasia is a language disorder that impairs the ability to communicate. It's most often caused by stroke-related injuries to areas of the brain that control speech and language.

**What are the effects of aphasia?**

does not affect intelligence. People with aphasia remain mentally alert even though their speech may be impaired, fragmented or impossible to understand.

• Getting the words out

• Understanding what others are saying

• Reading, writing or math

• Long and/or uncommon words

**What are the effects of aphasia?**

What would it be like to try and say "middle" but hear "miller" or "miller" but hear "middle"?

**Are there different types of aphasia?**

Yes, there are several. They include:

- **Global aphasia:** People with this aphasia have a severe and difficult-to-recover impairment in both reading and understanding words and sentences.
- **Broca's aphasia:** With this condition, speech is halting and slow, and often lacks grammar and sometimes important words.
- **Wernicke's aphasia:** People with this aphasia often speak in long, rambling sentences that often sound like a jumble of words that only sound like words.

**What is the difference between aphasia and dysarthria?**

Aphasia, a problem of speech and language, is different from dysarthria, a problem of speech production. It can be hard to distinguish between them, especially since all three may be present at the same time. Here's a breakdown of what the terms mean:

- **Aphasia** is an impairment in the ability to use and/or understand words.

**TOMA DE DECISIONES EN CUANTO A LA REHABILITACIÓN**

# Patient and Family Education: Health Literacy

*The capacity to obtain, process, and  
understand health information.*

Goal- To provide information in ways that  
are:

- Meaningful
- Understandable
- Timely
- with the appropriate amount of content  
based on the learner's readiness

## Validated Tools: Health Literacy Toolshed

- Rapid Assessment  
of Adult Health  
Literacy in Medicine
- Test of Functional  
Health Literacy in  
Adults
- The Newest Vital  
Sign

# Patient Education Material Assessment Tool (PEMAT)

<b>Understandability</b>	<b>Actionability</b>
Patient education materials are <i>understandable</i> when consumers of diverse backgrounds and varying levels of health literacy can process and explain key messages	Patient education materials are <i>actionable</i> when consumers of diverse backgrounds and varying levels of health literacy can identify what they can do based on the information presented

# Patient and Family Education-Health Coaching

*Partnering with patients and caregivers to provide support and establish goals for recovery and self-management of activities of daily living*

-Developing problem solving skills

-Increasing capacity for managing chronic health conditions

-Improving patient and caregiver confidence

-Improved stroke survivor quality of life and functional status

-Reduced depression at 3 months

-Reduced health care costs and readmissions

# Communication Across Settings

Between sending and receiving providers to ensure patient's key clinical and psychosocial issues across the care trajectory. The National Transitions of Care Coalition recommends that sending and receiving provider should be a case manager or transition specialist (Nurse Navigator

Empathetic  
language and  
gestures

Anticipating  
the patients  
and  
caregivers  
needs to  
support self  
care at home

Collaborative  
discharge  
planning

Providing  
actionable  
information

Providing  
uninterrupted  
care with  
minimal  
handoffs



# Role of the Stroke Nurse Liaison



# Developing Standardized Outcomes Measures



AHA/ASA “Get with the Guidelines” & Joint Commission

Standardized measures for hyperacute and acute stroke

Primary and Comprehensive stroke programs

Joint Commission & CARF

Performance measure standards for IRFs



# Current Stroke Guideline Community

## Acute Care

2014 Prevention of Stroke in Women

2012 Management of Aneurysmal SAH

2015 Management of Spontaneous ICH and Management of patients with unruptured intracranial Aneurysms

2017 Treatment and Outcome of Hemorrhagic Transformation after IV Alteplase in AIS

2019 Acute Ischemic Stroke

2021 Updated Nursing Scientific Statement (Prehospital and Acute) Endovascular and (ICU) Post Hyperacute and Prehospital discharge

2016 Adult Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery

## Postacute Care



Guideline Search  
Stroke -  
5991 results  
found in 663  
article(s)

NO standardized  
outcomes measures  
outside of acute care &  
no national quality  
database



Next Step:  
To develop  
standardized outcome  
measures for  
post-acute care

# Developing Standardized Outcomes Measures

## Stroke






Volume 52, Issue 1, January 2021; Pages 385-393  
<https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.120.029678>



### SPECIAL REPORT

## Comprehensive Stroke Care and Outcomes

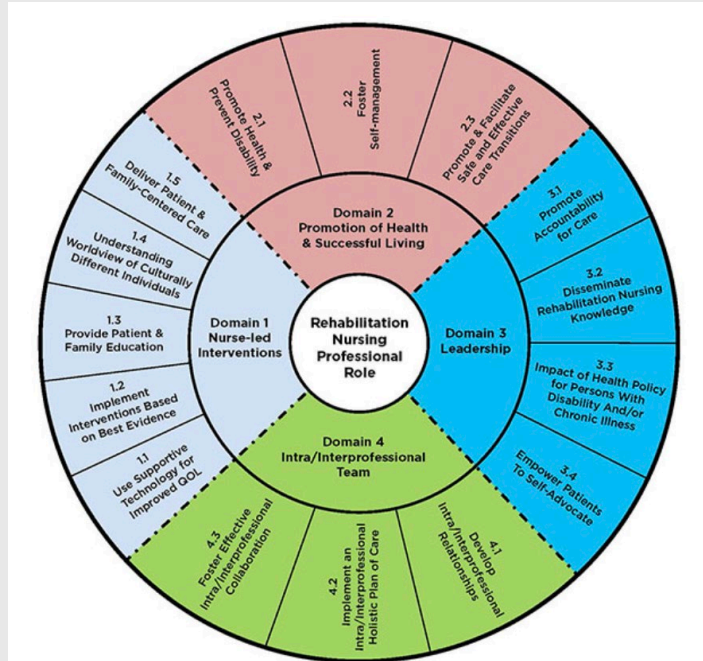
### Time for a Paradigm Shift

Pamela W. Duncan, PhD, PT, Cheryl Bushnell, MD, MHS, Mysha Sissine, MSPH , Sylvia Coleman, MPH, RN, BNS, CLNC , Barbara J. Lutz, PhD, RN , Anna M. Johnson, PhD, MSPH , Meghan Radman, MPH, Janet Pvrú Bettger, ScD, MS, BA, Richard D. Zorowitz, MD , and Joel Stein, MD

# Impact of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

- Culture, ethnicity, financial hardship can influence outcomes
  - May limit access to follow-up care & community resources
  - Can influence stroke recovery and impact stroke care
  - Informs individual on health behaviors and stroke prevention
- Need to understand cultural beliefs and other SDOH on diet, exercise, self-management, neighborhood safety, access to HC and resources
- Tailored discharge plans and follow-up care to address SDOH can improve stroke risk factors. Feldman et al showed that NP and health coach tailored sensitive interventions improved outcomes as compared to usual home visits

# Competencies Related to Care Transitions



Nurses must

- Identify current stroke guidelines
- Use resources for nurses
- Possess knowledge of and share resources for patients and family caregivers

# Leveraging Technology

- Video recordings of the skills that will be required of the family caregiver
- Telehealth family conferences, and follow-up consultation
- Virtual caregiver training
- Video recordings of progress
- Digital health platforms



**Table 1. Resources for Nurses**

National Transition of Care Checklist: <a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d48b6eb75823b00016db708/t/5d49bc833b48f80001f154bc/1565113475856/TOC_Checklist.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d48b6eb75823b00016db708/t/5d49bc833b48f80001f154bc/1565113475856/TOC_Checklist.pdf</a>
Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool: <a href="https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/patient-education/pemat.html">https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/patient-education/pemat.html</a>
Teach-Back Method: <a href="https://www.ahrq.gov/patient-safety/reports/engage/interventions/teachback.html">https://www.ahrq.gov/patient-safety/reports/engage/interventions/teachback.html</a>
Preparedness Assessment for the Transition Home After Stroke: <a href="http://www.rehabnurse.org/pathtool">www.rehabnurse.org/pathtool</a>
Prehospital/EMS: <a href="https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/mission-lifeline/mission-lifeline-stroke">https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/mission-lifeline/mission-lifeline-stroke</a>
ASA Resource Library: <a href="https://www.stroke.org/en/professionals/stroke-resource-library">https://www.stroke.org/en/professionals/stroke-resource-library</a>
AHA Acute Ischemic Stroke Healthcare Professional Resources: <a href="https://www.stroke.org/en/professionals/stroke-resource-library/acute-ischemic-stroke-healthcare-professional-resource-page">https://www.stroke.org/en/professionals/stroke-resource-library/acute-ischemic-stroke-healthcare-professional-resource-page</a>
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada: <a href="https://www.strokebestpractices.ca/resources/professional-resources">https://www.strokebestpractices.ca/resources/professional-resources</a>
World Stroke Organization: <a href="https://www.world-stroke.org/professional">https://www.world-stroke.org/professional</a>
Stroke Certified Registered Nurse: <a href="https://abnncertification.org/scrn/about">https://abnncertification.org/scrn/about</a>
Certified Registered Neuroscience Nurse: <a href="https://abnncertification.org/cnrm/about">https://abnncertification.org/cnrm/about</a>
Certified Registered Rehabilitation Nurse: <a href="https://rehabnurse.org/crn-certification/crn-certification">https://rehabnurse.org/crn-certification/crn-certification</a>





# Future Directions

Define standardized metrics to evaluate patient and caregiver outcomes across the continuum and the trajectory of recovery.

Implement regulatory and policy changes to incorporate these metrics into the stroke care delivery system.

**Establish a system of coordinated and seamless comprehensive stroke care across the continuum and into the community by reframing the paradigm to include the PAC delivery system.**

Use a comprehensive evidence-based stroke discharge checklist for post-stroke education (including physical, mental and emotional health promotion, stroke prevention education, and discharge resources)

Establish an APN-led stroke follow-up clinic visit as a standard of care 7- to 14-day postdischarge.

Implement a stroke nurse liaison role

A family/share plan with tailored interventions based on assessed needs of the stroke survivor and family caregiver and monitors quality outcomes.

**Future Directions**

Implement a validated caregiver assessment to systematically identify gaps in caregiver preparedness and develop a tailored caregiver/family care plan

Use evidence-based teaching and communication methods to optimize stroke survivor/caregiver learning to

# Summary

Discuss stroke nursing care across the continuum

Identify cross-setting issues in stroke care transitions

Describe recommendations to leverage the impact of nursing in the health care delivery system

## Stroke

### TOPICAL REVIEW

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Section Editors: Janice L. Hinkle, RN, PhD, CNRN, and Elaine Miller, PhD, MN, BSN

## Nursing's Role in Successful Stroke Care Transitions Across the Continuum: From Acute Care Into the Community

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