



Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry Quarterly Newsletter

Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry
Participating Hospitals



SUMMER 2013

Coverdell Partners:

Georgia Department
of Public Health
(DPH)

Emory University
School of Medicine

Georgia Medical
Care Foundation
(GMCF)

American Stroke
Association (ASA)

Georgia Hospital
Association (GHA)

If you have
anything you would
like included in an
upcoming
newsletter or have
achieved recent
recognition in the
area of stroke,
contact:

Kerrie Krompf
kkrompf@emory.edu

or

770-380-8998



Recognition of Coverdell Hospital Stroke Month Activities - May 2013

ATLANTA MEDICAL CENTER

Atlanta Medical Center started the May Stroke Month activities by providing stroke education and prevention strategies to four local Senior High Rise Centers as part of their Healthy Living Series. Community outreach continued with the Stroke Coordinators participating in the Georgia Power – Forest Park Center's Stroke Walk. After the walk, they shared information with the employees at a Lunch/Learn regarding stroke prevention and F.A.S.T.

There were several health fair events at churches and community associations that staff members participated in. The Stroke Coordinators participated in the Diabetes Expo, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, in which more than 1,400 people attended. They also attended a White Linen Gala for Stroke Awareness, which was sponsored by a family who had lost two brothers to stroke. F.A.S.T. cards were shared at many of the events listed above along with a Stroke Risk Assessment tool and a plan on how to modify risk factors.

Stroke Education/Awareness and prevention continues with the employees at AMC. F.A.S.T. posters, table toppers, cards, and magnets are located throughout the facilities. The Stroke Coordinator(s) participate in new employee orientation delivering an overview of stroke education and the monthly ASLS classes continue to build on that stroke education to the staff at AMC. The classes are also offered to outside agencies and at times include EMS, EMS students, and nursing students.

It was an extremely busy month and it doesn't stop in May, education and outreach continues throughout the year!

Submitted by: Lisa Weaver , Stroke Coordinator, Atlanta Medical Center

FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER

May 2013 was a month of Stroke learning in Floyd, Bartow, Chattooga and Centre, Ala. This year, Floyd held live health fairs at businesses and community gatherings. We kicked-off the month at businesses, directing education to employees. On May 2 at the Budweiser Plant in Cartersville, then May 17th at Hillshire Farm Brand in Rome. We changed direction and had a community health fair at Polk Hospital on May 18th, and ended the month on May 22nd at the Chattooga Senior Center, where I learned more than they did. I learned how to play 31 (a card game). I hope they got something from me as well. All together from these events we reached approximately 450 people spreading our message that time is brain, so act F.A.S.T.!

I wanted to use May as the time to distribute our message, and all the wonderful media products given to us by Genentech, to all of our Floyd Primary Care providers and Urgent Care businesses. This actually worked well in coordination with our Facilities CPOE (computerized Physician Order Entry) kick-off. We went to many of the physician offices and distributed stroke materials which was a wonderful way to speak directly with the physicians about Stroke Month, how I can be of service to them as a Stroke Coordinator, how to access Stroke orders in Cerner and the importance of using the specific order sets for our Center of Excellence. It was a great experience for me. It was a great networking opportunity and hopefully a chance to push our message to an area covering 5 counties. Floyd's Primary Care Network consists of 21 Primary Care facilities and six Urgent Care facilities located throughout our service area.

Overall, May was a busy and very productive month. I can assure you if you visit any of the local Doctor offices in the surrounding counties of Northwest Georgia you will see the "Face of Stroke" staring back at you. Thanks to all who made this Stroke Month for Georgia so educational!

Submitted by: Debbie Fisher, Stroke Coordinator, Floyd Medical Center

MEDICAL CENTER OF CENTRAL GEORGIA

During the month of May The Medical Center of Central Georgia (MCCG) participated, hosted, and/or co-sponsored several community and intra-facility events to promote national stroke month.

The month kicked off with a t-shirt sale on May 1st and 2nd with the adopted theme of "Strike Out Stroke". MCCG has t-shirt and jean day the last Friday of every month and employees are encouraged to wear their hospital related clothing. On Friday May 3rd, Macon's Mayor Robert Reichert issued a proclamation in the city for stroke month and this event was attended by various members of MCCG's multidisciplinary stroke team. The next week on May 7th, a community health fair was sponsored by GEICO for their employees and several members of the stroke team were able to provide stroke education to over 500 individuals. Later that week career day was held at Bruce Elementary School where time was spent with K through 5th graders educating them on recognizing signs and symptoms of stroke and calling 911 in suspected cases.

Central Georgia Rehabilitation, an affiliate of MCCG, held their annual media day program on Tuesday May, 14th where two individuals from the community shared their survivor stories. Also, other media day activities allowed individuals to rotate through designated stations that had stroke simulations so people could experience on a smaller scale what it is like to have a stroke. Furthermore, on May 15th, community education was provided to over 40 residents at Caryle Place, one of Macon's assisted living facilities.

The month's activities culminated with a community luncheon at the Marriot Convention Center where a stroke survivor shared his story and community stakeholders were allowed to network and enjoy one another's company.

"Stroke month is a very exciting and busy time of the year. It's worth all of the effort that we put into it when we are able to share and hear experiences with others throughout the community" says Jeremy Mills, RN, MSN, MBA—Stroke Coordinator at MCCG.

Submitted by: Jeremy Mills, Stroke Coordinator-Medical Center of Central Georgia

PIEDMONT FAYETTE

Stroke-A-Rama - One of the activities we did here at Piedmont Fayette for Stroke month was Stroke-a-rama. Stroke-a-rama is a game of chance and challenge. The contestant's general knowledge of stroke care is tested. With a spin of the arrow on the colorful giant wheel the topic is chosen.

The pie sections are designated with one of the letters in the word "Stroke".

S is for Signs and symptoms

T is for treatment options

R is for risk factors

O is for observation

K is for knowledge (the staff thought those were the hardest)

E was for any topic the contestant wanted to try

Answering the question correctly got one an instant reward of the candy of their choice from the candy bowl.



The game was fun, a quick way to learn, and to many, challenging. Both the staff and visitors were amused at seeing the gaudy stroke cart rolling down the hallways with pinwheels spinning and ribbon flowing in the breeze. Even my 4 year grandson got in on the fun. He was the sparkles sprinkler on the wheel and he made sure that every part of the wheel got its' share of sparkles.

Submitted by: Carol Smithpeters,
Manager-Stroke Program, Piedmont
Fayette Hospital

SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL ATLANTA

Members of the Stroke Advisory Committee at Saint Joseph's Hospital participated in various community outreach events. F.A.S.T. cards/magnets were distributed to visitors and employees at several locations in the hospital including: outpatient pharmacy, Starbucks, gift shop, outpatient surgery waiting area, and ED waiting area. Patients who were discharged from the ED received F.A.S.T. cards at discharge. In addition, F.A.S.T. materials were taken to the Kimberly-Clark health center, a martial arts school, and the Avis in Lawrenceville and distributed to employees and customers.

In an effort to provide additional education to employees and visitors, members from our Stroke Advisory Committee participated in a Nurses Week community outreach event. Volunteers checked blood glucose and distributed educational materials and giveaways (cookbooks, risk factor assessments, F.A.S.T. cards and magnets) to employees and visitors. Lastly, Saint Joseph's Hospital employees collaborated with Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM) and provided education at the EUHM stroke fair.

We had a great stroke awareness month!

Submitted by: Dee Lacey, Stroke/QI Coordinator-St. Joseph's Hospital, Atlanta

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

To raise awareness of stroke in Northeast Georgia, St. Mary's Health Care System hosted the 3rd annual Next Step 5K on May 4, headlined by stroke survivor and former University of Georgia football player David Jacobs.

In 2001, David suffered a life-threatening stroke during a midweek practice. Emergency treatment at St. Mary's saved his life, and extensive rehab at Emory and then at UGA enabled him to make a full recovery. Today he is an account manager at Academy Mortgage in Atlanta. He and his wife, Desiree, are the proud parents of two sons. His whole family came to the event.

Despite torrential rains, more than 50 runners and walkers completed the race. In addition to providing inspiration and education to participants, the Next Step 5K generated significant media coverage, including prominent discussion of the signs and symptoms of stroke and the benefits of immediate care.

"David's story demonstrates that stroke can happen to anyone at any age," said St. Mary's Stroke Coordinator Joanne Lockamy, RN. "We're looking forward to teaming up with David and Desiree again next year for an even bigger and better event."



Submitted by: Joanne Lockamy, Stroke Coordinator, St. Mary's Health Care System

WELLSTAR DOUGLAS

Wellstar Douglas Hospital is proud to announce that we have received the Silver Plus Stroke Award from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. This award recognizes that we have achieved at least 12 consecutive months of 85% or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines Stroke Performance Achievement indicators and at least 12 consecutive months of 75% or higher compliance with 6 of 10 Get With The Guidelines Stroke Quality Measures to improve quality of patient care and outcomes. We are working hard to maintain this achievement and to continue to improve.

In the past month, two Wellstar Douglas Hospital nurse educators have become certified ASLS instructors. We plan to begin teaching ASLS to our bedside nurses in the near future. During the month of May, some of our nurses participated in a health fair at the Daystar Tabernacle in Douglasville and educated attendees on stroke while handing out stroke educational materials.

Submitted by: by Rebecca Britt, Core Measures Specialist, Wellstar Douglas

Hospital and EMS Collaboration

Celebrating EMS Week at Atlanta Medical Center

AMC gave a huge "thank you" to EMS during National EMS Week, May 19-25.

Every day, AMC provided breakfast and snacks at both Main and South Campus, and gave away T-shirts and other merchandise branded with our Level I Trauma and Primary Stroke Center status. We also had Mexican lunches one day at each campus, with lots of ambulances pulling up to grab food and giveaways. We took this opportunity to survey first responders at the South Campus, and talk to them about our Level I Trauma capabilities at our Main Campus.

And rather than expect EMS to come to us, we took our show "on the road." We visited Rural Metro, one of our largest providers, bringing lunch to their headquarters in Roswell. We also made visits to EMS stations in Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Henry, Peachtree City and Newnan (thanks to Emily Page; Lisa Weaver; Debbie Camp, RN; Jolyn Angus, RN; and Natasha Hyde).

During the week, we named Ambucare as our EMS Crew of the Quarter at the Main Campus. They drove an hour from Haralson County to be presented with the award by our CEO, Bill Moore. Their picture will go up on the wall inside the ambulance entrance in the ED, and they will be featured in the next EMS newsletter in June.

Thank you, EMS!

Submitted by Nicole Gustin- Director of Public Relations & Marketing, Atlanta Medical Center

Redmond Regional Medical Center Engages EMS during Stroke Month

May was stroke awareness month; we definitely wanted to get the message about stroke to the public as well as to our own staff. What a better way to utilize our resources than to engage our EMS in the process. After all, a lot of times EMS first responders are the first face a patient or family sees when a stroke presents itself. We kicked off the month with an in-service that highlighted stroke for our entire EMS in our 3 catchment counties. We covered items such as signs and symptoms, how to react, facilitating transfer to the nearest Primary Stroke Center and appropriate care. After the in-service, a test followed to ensure our first line staff was not only educated but also able to perform such task and carry it to the field. We also sent 4 of the EMS training staff to the ASLS Instructor class sponsored by the Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry so they can now provide that next step of education. They are now classified as a training center as well as the hospital.

On May 14th, we had our annual Wellness Works seminar and presented the topic on TIAs. It was called "It's not just a mini stroke, Clearing the Blurred Thinking about a TIA and Stroke". It was presented by Dr. Jay Schecter, one of our neurologists and the classroom was standing room only. We were very pleased to have a stroke survivor, David Branch, attend and speak to others about his experience. Mr. Branch is not only a stroke survivor, but has served with EMS for 25 years with the last 3 being a part of the Redmond EMS family.

Also, we have reached out to surrounding area high schools. Brian Irish (paramedic) and Marty Robinson (paramedic) attended healthcare classes and brought awareness to this population of individuals, as they may be the future "little hero" if a stroke happens to a loved one or someone they come in contact with. The F.A.S.T. acronym was taught and well received by all who attended.

Ending the month on a positive note, we had our 1st annual "Strike Out Stroke" at the Rome Braves State Mutual Stadium. Misty Burkhalter, RN (Stroke Coordinator), Laura Snow, RN (Neuro Floor Director), Andrea Pitts (Marketing Director), and Renee Blackburn, RN (EMS) ran a table at the ball game and offered such items as a stroke risk assessment tool, F.A.S.T. handout flyers, information on signs and symptoms and provided them with information on what to do at the first encounter with someone exhibiting stroke-like behavior. We look forward to this being an on-going tradition during the month of May and expanding the outreach even further.

Submitted by Misty Burkhalter – Stroke Coordinator, Redmond Regional Medical Center

Grady and Grady EMS Share Success with Patient Feedback Form

Hospital/EMS feedback mechanisms, including the Coverdell Patient Feedback Form, are a great way to improve communication and identify educational needs.

Grady Hospital and Grady EMS share information in various ways. One example is through de-identified emails regarding patients who come to Grady Hospital and are diagnosed with a stroke. A quick email letting the medic know whether the patient received tPA or any specialized treatment is a great way to give timely feedback. Grady EMS can then review their chart to determine whether that patient was called as a stroke in the field, and if not, provide targeted education as appropriate. This also allows both sides to look at trends (e.g. EMS is frequently missing signs of neglect in the field) to identify whether a more comprehensive educational approach is needed.

Grady EMS also sends Grady Hospital a list of all patients who were called as a stroke in the field. Comparing the field diagnosis with the inpatient diagnosis gives us another opportunity to look at trends, identify common stroke mimics and plan educational opportunities.

The Coverdell Patient Feedback Form is a great way to enhance an already established communication channel. Putting these forms in the hands of medics gives them a simple way to inquire about their patients and create their own learning opportunities.

Submitted by: Kerrin Connelly, Outreach Manager-Marcus Stroke and Neuroscience Center, Grady Health System

Strike Out Stroke Day at Turner Field

Thank you everyone for a memorable event at Turner Field at the GA-SPA's 2nd Annual **Strike Out Stroke**. We had a great turn out and got very involved in educating and talking to baseball fans about the importance of knowing F.A.S.T. We also had the opportunity to have an interview on the JUMBOTRON (the giant screen) raising stroke awareness. The signs and symptom of stroke were displayed throughout the field during the 6th inning, and we talked to the radio station, 680 The Fan, about our mission to raise stroke awareness in Georgia communities.

The weather was great, the sun came out to shine upon Turner Field throughout most of the game, the Braves won against the Mets, and we cannot wait to do this event again next year!

A gigantic **THANK YOU** to Kerrin Connelly for managing and handling the tickets, what a huge job, and Kerrin does it with finesse!

THANK YOU to all the members and supporters of GA-SPA, who came out on a Sunday afternoon to support a very worthy cause – STRIKE OUT STROKE in Georgia.



Pictured above from left to right: Kerrin Connelly, Leah Gaunt, Susan Gaunt, Kerrie Krompf, Shelley Nichols, Debbie Camp, Katja Bryant, May Detweiller and Nancy Mitchell

Submitted by: Katja Bryant, Nurse Manager, Wellstar Kennestone Hospital

Please Note: The next Georgia Stroke Professional Alliance is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21st at the Medical Center of Central Georgia, Macon, Georgia. Presenters at the August 21st meeting will be: Pat Horine from DNV Healthcare, a hospital accreditation organization and he will speak about Stroke Accreditation Options. In addition, Laura Yarbrough from the Medical Center of Central Georgia will discuss "Considerations for Swallow Screening" and from Corazon, there will be a presentation on "Preparing your Stroke Program for the Future".

In early August, All Georgia SPA members will receive an email via survey monkey at which time we are asking you to take a few minutes to choose our 2013 -2014 GA SPA Officers and committee heads. Results will be named at the August 21st meeting.

To date, the Georgia Stroke Professional Alliance has 300 members. If you are not a member and would like to be, please contact: Kerrie Krompf at: kkrompf@emory.edu.

Coverdell Highlights

June Coverdell Conference Call- We 'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Rishi Gupta for presenting on the June conference call regarding: "The Importance of Taking a Stroke Patient to the Nearest Appropriate Facility". Dr. Gupta demonstrated on the call, the time that can be lost if patient's have to be transferred from one facility to the next. In addition, to the call, Dr. Gupta taped a webinar on the same topic that will soon be posted on the EMS education website. Thank you for an excellent and a most informative presentation.

August Coverdell Conference Call-Keith Wages, Director of EMS and Trauma for the Georgia Department of Public Health, facilitated the August call as we further discussed the Coverdell patient feedback form and the successes hospitals are having by using the form. In addition, we discussed obstacles to using the form and ways to overcome these obstacles. Many thanks to Keith Wages for leading the discussion on the call.

Wanted: EMS Feedback Forms

Ion Musk a world renown inventor and entrepreneur and the cofounder of PayPal and Tesla Motors once stated: "I think it's important to have a feedback loop, where you're constantly thinking about what you've done and how you could be doing it better." Over the last few months a dedicated group of individuals from our EMS and Hospital partners have been working closely to develop an EMS Patient Feedback Form. The GCASR Team would like to express appreciation to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication. EMS and Hospital partners requested a form to assist in facilitating a feedback loop. This led to the release of the feedback form which is available for immediate use. You will find the feedback form on the next page of this newsletter. It is recommended that the form be used as a springboard for your own activities. You are welcome to modify the form to fit your individual needs. Some facilities have utilized similar EMS feedback forms and have been successful. If your current process has proven effective at your facility, we encourage you to continue utilizing your current form. As Mr. Musk stated earlier we would love to receive feedback on how you are currently utilizing the EMS feedback loop. We are anxious to hear how and what you've done with the form. If you have success stories, observations, or recommendations on how others can benefit from the form, do not hesitate to share them with the GCASR Team. **Please remember to not only share the form with your EMS provider but to also, fax the completed form to Moges Ido at: 404-463-0780 or scan and e mail it to msido@dhr.state.ga.us**

As we enter the last quarter of 2013 I am proud to announce additional fruits from our EMS and Hospital collaborations will soon be released. It truly is an exciting time to be an active member of Coverdell.

Submitted by: James Lugtu, QI Director, Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry

Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry EMS Feedback Form

Please complete for all EMS-identified strokes/TIA's and hospital-identified tPA candidates/recipients

TOP: EMS COMPLETE

EMS provider agency: _____

Date of patient delivery to ED: ___/___/___ Time (military format): ___:___

If available: Run #: _____ Truck #: _____

BOTTOM: HOSPITAL COMPLETE

Did the patient have: an acute stroke? YES NO – diagnosis: _____
a TIA? YES NO – diagnosis: _____

Was the patient identified in the field as a stroke? YES NO

Did the information that EMS and ED have on Last Known Well time correlate?

YES (both agree) NO (do not agree) Not available (EMS and/or ED time not available)

Did the patient receive any intervention?

YES – tPA

YES – neurovascular: _____

NO – why not: _____

OTHER: _____

What was the patient's ED disposition?

Discharged from ED

Admitted to hospital

Transferred – to: _____

Other: _____

Person completing this form: _____

Title: _____

Date: ___/___/___

[X HOSPITAL] would like to thank you for the difference you made in this and in every patient's life! If you would like further information on this or any other case, please contact _____ at **[TELEPHONE NUMBER AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS]**.

NOTE: This form (a) is not to be interpreted as a medical record or any part of a medical record, (b) reflects data known only at one point in time and is not to be interpreted as a complete patient report, and (c) is for educational purposes only.