



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

2 Peachtree Street NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142
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Aug. 3, 2017

To: Emergency Medical Providers

RE: New inter-facility transfer protocol

Dear Emergency Provider:

We are proud to announce a newly developed inter-facility transfer protocol designed to enhance the quality of care for patients with acute ischemic stroke who are treated with intravenous tissue plasminogen activator. This protocol was created by Georgia clinicians with expertise in stroke care who are part of Georgia's Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry (GCASR). Enclosed in this communication is the final document which has been endorsed by the Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry and the Office of EMS and Trauma. This new protocol should not replace sound clinical judgment, but instead should be used as a guide for health care providers when transporting these patients.

Georgia is in the heart of the stroke belt, an area of the U.S. where more strokes and stroke-related deaths occur. We hope you find this new protocol a step in the right direction for establishing greater consistency and quality of care.

Please feel free to provide us with feedback about the new protocol.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D.'.

J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D.
Commissioner
Director of Health Protection

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Frankel, M.D.'.

Michael Frankel, M.D.
Lead Neurologist
Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke