

Stroke Care Pathway

Three steps that may be taken at the hospital after you or a loved one have a stroke.

STEP 1 NEUROSCIENCES INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

WHY AM I BEING SEEN HERE? If you or your loved one had a stroke, there may be swelling or bleeding in the brain, which could require surgery.

WHAT IS IT? Most people who have had a stroke are seen immediately in our neurosciences intensive care unit (ICU).

WHAT HAPPENS HERE? In the ICU, our team, including neurointerventionalists and cerebrovascular neurosurgeons and nursing staff will evaluate you closely. Speech, physical and occupational therapists will assess swallowing capability, mobility and ability to perform tasks of daily living.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER? Once stabilized and able to leave the ICU, you will be transferred to our large, comfortable neurology unit. Family members are not permitted to stay in the ICU, but each room is comfortably furnished for visitors.

STEP 2 SPECIALIZED IMAGING

WHY AM I BEING SEEN HERE? After a stroke, some people may need to have various tests so doctors can determine the cause and type of stroke. This is especially true if the stroke happened longer than six hours ago.

WHAT IS IT? Specialized imaging for a stroke is usually a CT scan or a MRI scan with perfusion imaging.

WHAT HAPPENS HERE? These imaging tests provide detailed images of the blood vessels in your brain and help the doctors see if there are any additional blood clots that need to be removed.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER? If the tests do not show blood clots, you will go to our neurosciences ICU. If the tests do show blood clots, you may need to have a neuro-interventional procedure.

STEP 3 NEUROINTERVENTIONAL CARE

WHY AM I BEING SEEN HERE? If you have blood clots in your brain that can be safely removed, this can often be done by a neurointerventional doctor.

WHAT IS IT? Neurointerventional procedures are minimally invasive, catheter-based operations that use a person's blood vessels to get to the brain and locate and treat a blood clot. It is not skull-based surgery.

WHAT HAPPENS HERE? These surgeries can help restore oxygen to the brain or dissolve blood clots. They include thrombectomy or interarterial clot removal with tPA.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER? If you have a neurointerventional procedure, you will be transferred to the ICU afterward.

