

ABSTRACT- A Guideline for Acute Stroke: Evaluation of New Jersey's Practices

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The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of processes and guidelines for the patient with acute stroke receiving care in New Jersey acute care hospitals in 2010. Lack of adherence to established protocols for acute ischemic stroke may significantly affect the outcomes of care. The lack of available literature providing evidence of prior practices for stroke care in the state of New Jersey precludes a comparison with current practices. This was a descriptive study utilizing an electronic survey developed by the researcher. A convenience sample was utilized for this study consisting of stroke healthcare professionals (N = 79) within the state of New Jersey. The survey yielded a response rate of 70%. Respondents provided information on level of education, average time in position, duties, issues impeding job performance, information related to hospital practices, and stroke core measure compliance within 30 days before the survey. Study results allow designated and nondesignated centers to address issues identified and change or revise protocols accordingly.