

**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/ELMHURST  
79-01 BROADWAY ELMHURST, N.Y. 11373  
NEUROLOGY  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

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| <b>SUBJECT: Admission and Discharge Criteria to Acute Stroke Unit</b>                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Index No.:</b> |
| <b>Status:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised | <b>Date Issue: 4/98</b><br><b>Date Revised: 9/98, 11/98, 1/01, 7/04, 3/10, 3/18, 7/22</b><br><b>Date Reviewed: 1/03, 6/04, 12/08, 2/09, 12/12, 11/14, 12/15, 11/16, 3/17, 7/20, 1/21, 7/22</b> |                   |

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the unit is to provide highly skilled and intensive medical and nursing care and coordination of interdisciplinary professional services for patients diagnosed as having a cerebrovascular accident (stroke), any type of acute intracranial bleeding, or who deteriorate neurologically and are not appropriate admissions to the intensive care unit.

**DESCRIPTION OF UNIT:**

The Acute Stroke Unit (ASU) is located within the A4 Progressive Care Unit. Patients with diagnosis of acute stroke are admitted to a double occupancy rooms, each bed equipped with a bedside cardiac monitor, O<sub>2</sub>, vacuum suction, clothing closet, over bed table and bedside stand, bathroom with shower, nurse call system, TV, telephone.

**PROCEDURE**

**I. Admission Criteria**

- a. Acute dysfunction of CNS (cerebral hemisphere, brainstem, and/or cerebellum) due to ischemia or intracranial hemorrhage which may manifest with any of the following signs (alone or in combination): cognitive or behavioral dysfunction, visual disturbance, dysarthria, aphasia, disequilibrium, seizures, gait disturbance, motor or sensory dysfunction.
- b. Patients who deteriorate neurologically and are not appropriate admissions to the intensive care unit.
- c. Patients may be admitted to the Progressive Care (PC) - ASU from the Emergency Department, in-house units, or outside facilities.
- d. The neurology attending and /or resident authorizes the admission of patients to the PC-ASU and physician notifies the Bed Board
- e. When the number of patients exceeds the number of beds available in the PC-ASU ,

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the patient with the highest acuity will be admitted

**II. Transfer Criteria**

- a. Patients will be evaluated by attending neurologist in collaboration with neurology resident for continued suitability to remain in the PC-ASU.
- b. When a patient no longer requires the close monitoring provided in the PC-ASU, and who's medical and nursing care needs may be safely met outside the PC-ASU, the neurology attending or designee will transfer the patient to the general neurology beds on B4 Unit, depending upon the level of care needed, or to the Rehabilitation Service.

**III. Discharge Criteria**

- a. Discharge criteria are determined by the neurology attending in collaboration with the neurology resident.
- b. Patients showing satisfactory and progressive signs of improvement, who do not require frequent medical and nursing interventions may be discharged from PC-ASU to home, Rehabilitation Service, or to an outside facility.

**REFERENCES**

American Heart Association (2020). American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. Circulation, Volume 146(16). Retrieved from [Vol 142, No 16 suppl 2 | Circulation \(ahajournals.org\)](#)

National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (2012) Specifying a Service for the Diagnosis and Initial Management of Stroke

The Joint Commission (2022). Provisions of Care, Treatment and Services .01.01.01, .01.02.01 & 01.02.03. Hospital Accreditation Standards. Oak Brook Terrace, Illinois; Joint Commission Resource.