

# Saskatchewan Acute Stroke Pathway

We all have a role to play in preventing strokes or reducing their harmful effects. Anyone who notices the signs of a stroke in themselves or someone else should immediately call 911, so emergency personnel can initiate the first steps of assessment and treatment and rush the patient to the nearest centre for acute stroke care.

## Key Features

- An extended time period for evaluation of stroke patients. Prior to the pathway, only patients within 3.5 hours of symptom onset were considered for emergency evaluation and treatment. Under pathway protocols patients can be transported to a primary stroke centre for evaluation up to 12 hours from symptom onset.
- Updated standards for advanced imaging. Under pathway protocols all hyperacute stroke patients receive CT angiogram (CTA) within 30 minutes of arrival at the primary stroke centre. CTA allows for thorough stroke diagnosis and identification of appropriate treatment.
- Improved access to hyperacute treatment. Through a combination of rapid care, thorough diagnostic imaging, and consultation from stroke specialists, eligible patients can receive timely hyperacute treatment in the primary centre or be efficiently transferred to Royal University Hospital for endovascular therapy. Patients who can receive hyperacute treatment have better chances of recovery than patients who receive no treatment.

## LEARN THE SIGNS OF STROKE

**F**ACE is it drooping?  
**A** RMS can you raise both?  
**S** PEECH is it slurred or jumbled?  
**T**IME to call 9-1-1 right away.

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**Call 9-1-1**  
if someone exhibits  
stroke symptoms.

Location	Primary Stroke Centre
Estevan	St. Joseph's Hospital
Moose Jaw	Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital
Swift Current	Cypress Regional Hospital
Yorkton	Yorkton Regional Health Centre
Prince Albert	Victoria Hospital
North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital
Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
Location	Tertiary Stroke Centre
Regina	Regina General Hospital
Saskatoon	Royal University Hospital

Patients near rural centres will be taken to a primary stroke centre for assessment and possible treatment or evacuation to a tertiary stroke centre. Patients near Regina or Saskatoon will be taken directly to a tertiary stroke centre.

### About pathways

Clinical pathways help ensure patients receive appropriate and timely care. The Saskatchewan Acute Stroke Pathway is based on Canadian best practice guidelines set by the Heart & Stroke Foundation. The pathway is an agreed-upon standard for diagnosing and treating patients when stroke symptoms are detected. This facilitates timely patient care from ambulance to emergency room to hospital admission. As a result, patients with symptoms of stroke can be identified, evaluated and treated as quickly as possible.

**More information** about the Acute Stroke Pathway: [www.sasksurgery.ca/patient/acutestroke.html](http://www.sasksurgery.ca/patient/acutestroke.html)

**Health provider** information: [www.sasksurgery.ca/provider/acutestroke.html](http://www.sasksurgery.ca/provider/acutestroke.html)