Documentation Essentials

OP-23 Head CT/MRI Interpretation

Collected for patients ≥ 18 years old with stroke

Patient presents to Emergency Department (ED) with signs/symptoms of ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke.

Document: Accurate date and time the signs/symptoms of stroke started AND/OR the date and time the patient was last known to be free of signs/symptoms of stroke.

Includes: Symptom(s) and time first noticed AND/OR the actual time last witnessed “well,” “normal,” “baseline,” etc.

Rationale: If stroke symptoms started more than 120 minutes prior to ED arrival, patient will be excluded.

Patient presents to ED with signs/symptoms of ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke and receives a Head CT or MRI.

Document: Time patient completed scan and, if known, the time physician was notified of scan results.

Includes: Accurate documentation of the time of events.

Rationale: The time physician received CT/MRI results supports the measure of the timeliness of interpretation.

Scan interpretation within 45 mins. of arrival

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Signs and Symptoms of Stroke

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache

Additional Information

- Documentation of the date and time patient was last known to be well found on the Ambulance Record or Code Stroke/Stroke Alert form is acceptable.
- Documentation of the date and time patient was last known to be well placed on a Stroke Education or Core Measure form is not acceptable.
- Patients who have onset of signs/symptoms of stroke after ED arrival will be excluded from the OP-23 population.

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