

September 19th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Topic	Discussion
Call to order	Dr. Gene Latorre called the meeting to order at 1002
Meeting Minutes Approval/Membership	Previous meeting minutes approved by Jay Moore, second Heather Perry (March 2025 meeting) The group proceeded to introduce themselves with new members welcomed.
Chairman Update	No major updates from Dr. Latorre at this time.
Old Business	None
New Business	Pediatric Stroke Code Process at Upstate- Jennifer Murphy RN Jennifer presented on pediatric stroke recognition and the hospital's pathway implementation. She emphasized that pediatric strokes, though often considered rare, can cause lifelong complications if not recognized and treated quickly. Since launching the pathway last February, there have been 32 activations, many of which were mimics such as migraines and seizures. However, some have been actual strokes, with some requiring intervention (thrombolytic or thrombectomy). The Upstate Peds Stroke pathway uses MRI as the primary imaging tool, with a 15-minute hyperacute stroke protocol, and applies criteria for patients aged 2–17 with neurology providing a PEDS NIHSS score. The group also discussed enhancing pediatric stroke protocols across central New York. Jennifer stressed the urgency of treating pediatric strokes with the same seriousness as adult cases and highlighted the importance of rapid transfers to Upstate. Jennifer reminded the group to call the Upstate Transfer Center and use keywords like “pediatric” + “stroke” to help quickly triage the call to the appropriate Upstate peds team. Dawn Wage shared plans to develop a formal protocol for the Binghamton region, including an EMS education event in November. Jennifer offered to assist other hospitals in building protocols and shared that a public-facing pediatric stroke pathway is available on Upstate's website: https://upstate.ellucid.com/pman/documents/view/12346/?security=1c0e578dc4d74e33a732badf5207c0d7bb4bb508 Jennier noted that the Upstate Peds stroke team plans to transition from Alteplase to Tenecteplase by year-end. Zodiac Trial/publication update and discussion As a reminder, the Zodiac trial showed better outcomes for LVO patients when the HOB is placed flat prior to thrombectomy or during transport to a CSC. During the previous (March 2025) meeting, it was decided that the group would wait to discuss working this into regional EMS protocols until the final paper was released. Currently, the paper is

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	available. Dr. Black has taken this suggestion to Med Standards Committee, with the plan to take this into discussion for statewide protocol change by next July. The group decided to leave this item listed as Old Business until written into a protocol. Hemorrhagic Stroke Care- group discussion on best practice for hemorrhagic stroke care (CODE ICH) Josh and Dr. Latorre presented on the new code ICH process, which includes metrics for blood pressure control, reversal agents for anticoagulation, and surgical intervention decisions, with Dr. Latorre emphasizing the recent advances in intracranial hemorrhage treatment and the importance of timely interventions. There was discussion surrounding the current BP goals for hemorrhagic stroke. Dr. Latorre noted that BP should be less than 150 mmHG as a target, with patients who presented or have BP within the 150-220mmHG range being requiring BP reduction. Mission Lifeline EMS opportunity/discussion Josh introduced the group to the AHA EMS Mission Lifeline opportunity. Josh briefly described the criteria required to meet the Mission Lifeline targets, data that is required to be submitted (four stroke and four STEMI cases per agency each year). Josh noted that the Upstate group would be reaching out to agencies gauging their interest level as well as helping to support through this process. Jarrod noted that he would share the information amongst his agencies. More information can be found here: https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/mission-lifeline
Accreditation Updates/ New York States Updates	The group discussed several accreditation and quality initiatives related to stroke care. Dawn shared challenges with new Joint Commission data points, while Josh highlighted the importance of hemorrhagic stroke care and introduced the EMS Mission Lifeline criteria for stroke care recognition. The team also addressed recent accreditation surveys from DNV and New York State, with Scott sharing his successful approach to resolving a DNV citation for nicardipine infusion management using a manual worksheet. Oksana K also shared her experience with working through a DNV citation on vasoactive drip titration and her teams corrective action plans. Josh reminded the group that version 26.1 of the NYS DOH State Stroke Services document was released with an anticipated go-live of January 1, 2026. The document can be found: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cardiovascular/stroke/designation/docs/nysdoh_stroke_guidance_document_26.1.pdf
Educational Opportunities	Josh announced upcoming educational opportunities, including a virtual Lunch and Learn with free CEs (RUSH) scheduled for Wednesday September 24th, 2025
Regional Reports/Round Table	Nothing to report

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Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1056
Next Meeting:	December 19 th , 2025 via Zoom (https://upstate.zoom.us/j/91785668079)

Attendee List:

Name	Affiliation
Jay Moore	Gouverneur Hospital
Hamza Malek	Canton Potsdam Hospital
Gene Latorre	Upstate
Sarah Bailey	River Hospital
Jeremy Trost	VA Syracuse
Josh Onyan	Upstate
Jennifer Murphy (guest speaker)	Upstate Pediatrics
Heather Perry	Rome Hospital
Brandy Burt	Auburn Hospital
Jarrold Waufle	Midstate EMS
Rebecca Sykes	Canton Potsdam Hospital
Michelle Vallelunga	Upstate
Dawn Wage	UHS Binghamton
Scott Ward	St. Joseph's Hospital
Tracie Davoy	Lewis County General Hospital
Kirby Black	Oneida Hospital
Oksana Kaskov	Crouse Hospital
Marcy Teal	Lewis Country General Hospital