

December 19th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

| Topic | Discussion |
|--|--|
| Call to order | Dr. Gene Latorre called the meeting to order at 1001 |
| Meeting Minutes Approval/Membership | <p>September meeting minutes approved by Jay Moore and Dawn Wage</p> <p>The group proceeded to introduce themselves with new members welcomed.</p> |
| Chairman Update | <p>Dr. Latorre provided a chairman update (see slides attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-disabling Stroke Symptoms • Thrombolysis with TNK/TPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No benefit in mild stroke/non-disabling symptoms 0-4.5hrs (ARAMIS trial) ○ No benefit in mild stroke/non-disabling symptoms 0-12hrs with CTP perfusion abnormality (TEMPO-2) • Asymptomatic carotid stenosis • Previous guideline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50-70%: medical therapy ○ >70%: CEA/CAS if low perioperative risk (<3%) Class 2b recommendation (AHA/ASA 2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <75 years: CAS ▪ >75 years: CEA ▪ Women-surgical intervention may not show benefit • CREST 2: PICO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patients: 35+ with >70% carotid stenosis, no prior ipsilateral stroke/symptoms (e.g. asymptomatic) ○ Intervention 1: Carotid endarterectomy ○ Intervention 2: Carotid stenting ○ Control: Intensive medical therapy ○ Outcome: Stroke + death in first 30 days, ipsilateral stroke in 4 yrs |
| Old Business | <p>Zodiac Trial Updates</p> <p>Reminder, this trial demonstrated advantages to placing HOB flat when there is a suspected LVO. Dr. Black was bringing this information to the state level to discuss the opportunity for policy updates. Dr. Black was not at todays meeting- no update. This item will be left on the agenda as old business.</p> <p>Zodiac Trial info: Alexandrov, A. W., Shearin, A. J., Mandava, P., Torrealba-Acosta, G., Elangovan, C., Krishnaiah, B., ... & ZODIAC Investigators. (2025). Optimal Head-of-Bed Positioning Before Thrombectomy in Large Vessel Occlusion Stroke: A Randomized Clinical Trial. <i>JAMA neurology</i>.</p> |

December 19th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>American Heart Association EMS Mission Lifeline Updates</p> <p>Josh provided the group with an update on the EMS Mission: Lifeline initiative. As a reminder, this program offers EMS agencies the opportunity to enter data into the Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) database and potentially qualify for award recognition through the American Heart Association.</p> <p>Josh, along with Oksana (Crouse), Scott (St. Joseph's), and others, met with EMS representatives and AHA representatives to review the process and requirements. Information packets were distributed to North County and CNY EMS representatives for dissemination to their agencies.</p> <p>Josh will continue to update the group on the status of agencies that choose to apply. Participation requires the submission of a minimum of one stroke case and one STEMI case per quarter, totaling eight cases over the calendar year. The specific GWTG/AHA award criteria were reviewed and shared with participating EMS agencies.</p> <p>More information here: https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/mission-lifeline</p> |
| New Business | No new business to discuss |
| Accreditation Updates/ New York States Updates | <p>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:</p> <p>https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cardiovascular/stroke/designation/docs/nysdoh_stroke_guidance_document_26.1.pdf</p> |
| Educational Opportunities | <p>Josh offered the group information on Upstates monthly RUSH education series, which will be continuing for 2026. Registration can be found here : https://upstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/RnwLPsy7T5mz4Rc41YIEGQ#/registration</p> <p>Josh mentioned the upcoming International Stroke Conference, Feb 4-6 in New Orleans, LA. More information here : https://professional.heart.org/en/meetings/international-stroke-conference</p> |
| Regional Reports/Round Table | <p>Dawn Wage (USH Wilson) shared that she has been collaborating with local nursing homes to provide stroke education to their staff. In addition, she and her team developed a standardized stroke handoff tool for use by nursing home staff and EMS to support effective communication during patient transfer.</p> |



December 19th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| | The tool includes key information such as last known well time, stroke symptoms, anticoagulation status, next of kin name and contact information, and advance directives. The document, titled "Nursing Home to EMS Report Sheet for Potential Stroke Patient," will be distributed to the group along with these meeting minutes. |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 1037 |
| Next Meeting: | March 20 th , 2026 @ 1000 via Zoom (https://upstate.zoom.us/j/91785668079) |

Attendee List:

| Name | Role | Affiliation |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Gene Latorre | Stroke Program Medical Director/RSTAC Chair | Upstate |
| Josh Onyan | Stroke Program Manager/RSTAC secretary | Upstate |
| Hamza Malek | Stroke Program Medical Director | Canton Potsdam |
| Luke Gasowski | EMS | Lifenet |
| Jennifer Rech | Stroke Program Outreach | Upstate |
| Brandy Burt | Stroke Coordinator | Auburn |
| Jay Moore | ED Nurse Manager | Gouverneur |
| Dawn Wage | Stroke Coordinator | UHS Wilson |
| Oksana Kaskov | Stroke Program Administrator | Crouse |
| Rebecca Sykes | Stroke Coordinator | Canton Potsdam |
| Blair Bulluck | ED Director | Carthage |
| Jay Brenner | ED Provider | Upstate Community |
| Amanda Ostrander | Stroke Coordinator | Cayuga |
| Michelle Vallelunga | Stroke Program Data and Quality | Upstate |
| Jackie Mattison | Administrative Assistant | CNY EMS |
| Scott Ward | Stroke Coordinator | St. Josephs |
| Kristin VanDusen-Janz | Stroke Coordinator | Samaritan |
| Jeremy Trost | Stroke Coordinator | VA |