

December 19th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Topic	Discussion
Call to order	Dr. Gene Latorre called the meeting to order at 1001
Meeting Minutes Approval/Membership	September meeting minutes approved by Jay Moore and Dawn Wage The group proceeded to introduce themselves with new members welcomed.
Chairman Update	Dr. Latorre provided a chairman update (see slides attached) • Non-disabling Stroke Symptoms • Thrombolysis with TNK/TPA ○ 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 ○ 50-70%: medical therapy ○ >70%: CEA/CAS if low perioperative risk (<3%) Class 2b recommendation (AHA/ASA 2024) ▪ <75 years: CAS ▪ >75 years: CEA ▪ Women-surgical intervention may not show benefit • CREST 2: PICO ○ 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	Zodiac Trial Updates 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 today's meeting- no update. This item will be left on the agenda as old business. 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>.

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	American Heart Association EMS Mission Lifeline Updates 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. 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. 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. More information here: https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/mission-lifeline
New Business	No new business to discuss
Accreditation Updates/ New York States Updates	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 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 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
Regional Reports/Round Table	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.

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	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