# Steps for Acute Stroke Code - ER

| Step 1 | Pre-hospital | ▪ Paramedic patch into ER department (Important: Bring in witness, instruct them to come in immediately or stay near a telephone where a physician can reach them)  
▪ Alerts Nurse that patient is a possible “Stroke Code” |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Step 2 | Emergency Department | ▪ Triage Nurse (for ambulatory patients)  
▪ Assesses patient |
| | | Primary Nurse  
▪ Alerts Emergency Physician of possible “Stroke Code”  
▪ Completes baseline nursing neuro exam and GCS  
▪ Establishes time, including source and contact information  
▪ Assesses for history of renal failure and most recent serum creatinine (check OACIS)  
▪ Call for old chart (general campus only)  
▪ Ensures blood work is done “Stroke Code”  
▪ Notifies lab “Stroke Code” blood is enroute  
▪ Ensures CT requisition labelled “Stroke Code CT Scan – possible tPA candidate”  
▪ RN to accompany patient to CT with appropriate monitoring equipment |
| Step 3 | Emergency Physician | ▪ Initiates “Stroke Code” (exclude those with minimal or resolving deficits or NIHSS < 4)  
▪ Activation of Stroke Code results in notification Acute Stroke Team STAT by telecommunications: Stroke Physician, CT Technologist, Lab and Transportation Worker  
▪ Completes and signs preprinted order sheet in this package; “Initial evaluation of stroke patient for possible thrombolysis”  
▪ Arranges immediate transfer to CT scanner |
| Step 4 | Neurologist | ▪ Confirms ischemic stroke  
▪ Determines eligibility for IV or IA thrombolysis/angioplasty  
▪ If not eligible, completes section re: reason for exclusion |

## IV tPA

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<th>0 – 4.5 hours onset of stroke</th>
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| ▪ Neurologist completes and signs informed consent for IV tPA  
▪ Acute Stroke Checklist for IV tPA  
▪ ASPECTS scoring sheet  
▪ NIH Stroke Scale  
▪ Orders for thrombolysis with IV tPA  
▪ Post tPA administration physician order sheet  
▪ RN to accompany patient on transfer to appropriate inpatient unit (ICU, PACU or neuro observation) |

## IA thrombolysis/angioplasty

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<tr>
<th>4.5 – 6 hours onset of stroke (see note, next page)</th>
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| ▪ Neuroradiologist or stroke physician completes and signs Intra-arterial consent form  
▪ Acute Stroke Checklist for IA tPA  
▪ ASPECTS scoring sheet  
▪ NIH Stroke Scale  
▪ Post tPA administration physician order sheet  
▪ Transfer to **ICU only** post IA tPA |