National Stroke Audit
Fact Sheet

Stroke FOUNDATION

About the audit

The National Stroke Audit is an important quality improvement initiative led by the Stroke Foundation. The National Stroke Audit provides longitudinal data on clinical performance to help services and state clinical networks identify areas for improvement, lobby for change and celebrate success.

Services that participate can directly measure adherence to the evidence-based recommendations found within the *Living Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management* and track clinical performance.

The National Stroke Audit has been reporting on change and progress in stroke care since 2007, and is used by clinicians, health administrators and governments to improve the quality of stroke care in Australia.

What's involved?

There are two parts to the National Stroke Audit:

- **Organisational Survey** - a single questionnaire examining the local resources available to provide evidence-based stroke care and enabling reporting of services against the National Rehabilitation Stroke Services Framework 2022

- **Clinical Audit** - a retrospective review of 40 consecutive stroke rehabilitation admissions to your hospital between June – November 2023, measuring the quality of care against evidence-based recommendations found in the Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management

Key contact

Each service will nominate a key contact person to ensure audit communications reach the auditing team quickly and effectively.

The key contact is responsible for:

- Disseminating training documents to all auditors at your service
- Coordinating auditors to complete file reviews in the audit timeframe
- Responding to data queries from the Stroke Foundation audit team
- Ensuring data is checked and complete at the end of the audit

Who can audit?

Any clinician can audit cases. It is recommended to limit the number of auditors where possible to prevent variations in interpreting audit questions and avoid data inconsistencies.

Data collection

The Organisational Survey will open on 1 April 2024 and once completed, participants can begin entering data for the Clinical Audit. The Organisational Survey will close on the 28 April 2024, and the Clinical Audit will close on 31 May 2024.

Data entry is completed using the web-based Australian Stroke Data Tool (AuSDaT).

The data is confidential. Only participants from your service and the Stroke Foundation audit team will be able to view the content.

Services will also be asked to complete reliability checks on up to five cases to ensure consistent interpretation of audit questions.

Case notes

Patients must be admitted to and discharged from your hospital between January and November 2023.

It is recommended that services audit cases from most to least recent to prioritise the most relevant data i.e., request cases from November, then October, September etc.

The ability to do this may depend on whether the medical records department is receptive to this request.

Cases need to fall within specific ICD10 codes. These codes are provided below.

- ***Medical records to request are:***
  - o I61.0 - I61.9 (Intracerebral haemorrhage)
  - o I63.0 – I63.9 (Cerebral infarction)
  - o I64 (Stroke not specific as haemorrhage or infarction)
    - o I62.9 (Intracranial haemorrhage unspecified).

- ***Case Exclusion Criteria***
  - o subarachnoid haemorrhage (I60)
  - o subdural and extra-dural haematoma (I62 & I62.1)
  - o Transient Ischaemic Attacks (G45.9)
  - o Palliative patients

Training

All auditors will be required to complete standardised training regarding the AuSDaT. A training session will be organised closer to the start of the audit, and this will be recorded for participants to view at a later date.

Reporting

The Translational Public Health and Evaluation Division at Monash University will conduct an independent analysis. Programmed logic checks will be implemented, and sites will be asked to review their completed data before final analysis commences. Upon completion, individual site reports will be sent to the rehab stroke service site coordinator. These will detail and graph the results for each participating hospital. A National Rehab Services Report will be published providing the audit results for Australia and a snapshot of the progress in rehab stroke services for 2024. All these outputs, plus web-based interactive graphs, will be made available on the Stroke Foundation InformMe website.