

Regional Improvement Initiative Plan for Developing the Stroke Regional Advisory Council

Benefits of the Stroke Regional Advisory Council:

Adequate planning and preparation are needed to roll-out the Stroke Regional Advisory Council (SRAC). A fully functioning SRAC has benefits for the Arkansas Stroke Registry (ASR) staff as well for the EMS and hospital staffs and ultimately for the citizens of Arkansas. Implementation of the SRAC can be helpful in weaning stroke coordinators from dependence on the ASR staff while maintaining/improving the care provided. This is done by planning and facilitating an effective meeting as well as by the ASR staff supporting the Regional Leadership. With careful and thoughtful preparation and a successful roll-out of the SRAC, expected benefits are discussed below.

Benefits of an Effective SRAC:

- Improve the care provided to stroke patients.
- Provide a forum for EMS and hospital providers to discuss issues and share successes.
- Support accountability for Registry participation and care improvement.
- Increase the self-reliance of the EMS/coordinators with regard to stroke care, shifting support from the Registry staff to the SRAC participation.
- Foster hospital independence for improving stroke care. Registry staff is able to select hospitals requiring the additional support with an Annual Program Review (APR).

Role of the ASR Staff:

- In specific situations, SRAC may take the place of the APR. Evaluate each hospital, using predetermined criteria, assessing if an exemption from the APR is warranted.
- Notify the coordinator that based on his/her participation and successes, an APR is not needed. If the coordinator would prefer to have one regardless, it is the coordinator's responsibility to notify ASR staff.
- Posting a list of resources for the SRAC members on the Arkansas Department of Health's (ADH) website. Conduct an annual review of the documents and when needed, update.
- Upon identification of the need, develop or find additional resources for the website.
- Responsibility for the Leadership Meetings, to guide the SRAC Representatives, providing support, information, and identification of needs. Work with the SRAC Representatives to address barriers to success and share successes.