



SETRAC Stroke Committee

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Memorial Hermann The Woodland
In-person/Virtual Meeting

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TOPIC	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP
Presenter: Tonia Shelton Topic: Call to Order/Approval of Minutes	Tonia Shelton called the meeting to order. Minutes from July 23, 2025, were approved with no changes. Attendance will be tracked by going to www.setrac.org/stroke . Enter your code words at the beginning and end of the meeting.	The committee has no further recommendations.
New Business: Presenter: Tonia Shelton/Melanie Aluotto Topic: Stroke Committee Medical Director Nomination	Tonia discussed with the members the need for nominations for a new Committee Medical Director, encouraging participants to use a QR code to submit nominations.	The committee has no further recommendations.
Presenter: Alex Humphrey Topic: Vivistim Therapy-Paired VNS	Alex Humphrey from Vivistim, presented on a device for Chronic Ischemic Stroke Survivors, highlighting its ability to enhance neuroplasticity and improve upper extremity function when paired with intensive rehabilitation therapy. The device, which is implanted in an outpatient procedure, has shown significant improvements in patient outcomes, with a pivotal study published in The Lancet demonstrating 2-3 times greater improvement in upper extremity function compared to therapy alone.	The committee has no further recommendations.
Presenter: Dr. Haris Kamal Topic: Stroke Thrombectomy “not bound by time anymore-24hrs and beyond.”	Dr. Kamal followed did a presentation on expanding thrombectomy indications, emphasizing that the 24-hour window is less critical than the brain's overall time window, and shared a case study of a patient who benefited from late-window thrombectomy despite initial skepticism about the treatment's effectiveness. Dr. Kamal presented recent advancements in stroke treatment, focusing on the concept of core and penumbra tissue in brain infarcts. He explained that previous assumptions about dead tissue have been challenged, as revascularization can improve outcomes even in areas previously thought to be irreversibly damaged. He highlighted a meta-analysis showing that thrombectomy beyond 24 hours significantly improves patient outcomes, with 43%	The committee has no further recommendations.



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	achieving functional independence, and discussed the importance of imaging over time in predicting patient recovery. He also addressed blood pressure management after thrombectomy, recommending a target of less than 160 mmHg based on recent trials, unless there are concerns about a large core stroke.	
Presenter: HCA Houston Healthcare Conroe Topic: SETRAC QI Program	Tina Doffing and Karissa Stasik from HCA Conroe presented Process Improvement to Decrease Door to Groin Puncture Times. Tina. Their team implemented the VIZ AI platform to enhance communication between ED physicians, neurologists, and interventionalists, resulting in faster CT read times, reduced activation and arrival times, and a 17-minute decrease in door-to-groin puncture time from June to September. The system allows for real-time communication through a chat function and faster team activation compared to their previous phone-based system. There were questions and open discussions between the members on this topic.	The committee has no further recommendations.
Presenter: Melanie Aluotto Topic: SETRAC QI Program	Melanie reminded the members of the SETRAC QI program. The purpose is to give a platform to submit case reviews, trends, or any concerns / issues in the region and the QI medical directors would look at those issues to find resolution. She shared the link for all that might be interested.	The committee has no further recommendations.
Presenter: Grace Farquhar Topic: Stroke Data	Grace reviewed the Q2 2025 data, noting an upward trend in stroke volumes since COVID, with younger patients increasingly affected. They discussed thrombolytic administration rates, which showed a slight decline but were still below the target goals of 50% within 30 minutes and 75% within 45 minutes. The committee was advised to review their individual hospital goals and consider aligning them with the regional targets. They were also reminded to verify and document reasons for not administering thrombolytics	The committee has no further recommendations.



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	in medical records to avoid fallout in CEO reports. Grace shared slides and focused on the use of thrombolytics for stroke patients, particularly those with mild, non-disabling symptoms. I was emphasized that the decision to administer TPA should be a joint one between the physician and the patient, as per guidelines from 2006. They discussed the importance of considering the patient's specific symptoms and potential for deterioration, rather than relying solely on the NIH stroke scale. The group also touched on the need for further research into the outcomes of patients with mild strokes who receive TPA, as well as the possibility of pulling discharge MRS data for this patient category. They also reviewed door-to-puncture times for thrombectomy patients, analyzing data from Q1 2023 to present. For direct presentations, median times were generally within guidelines (90 minutes), and for transfer patients showed faster median times. There were questions and open discussion between the members.	
Presenter: Tonia Shelton Topic: Stroke Coordinators Subcommittee	Tonia recapped several updates and discussions. Two presentations were shared, including one on evidence-based practice from Memorial Hermann Cypress and another on door-to-needle times from HCA Southeast. The group reviewed the best practice calendar for 2025 and discussed the need to start planning for 2026. A pilot program for post-discharge rehab calls was mentioned, as well as efforts to analyze zip code demographics for the extended window project. The conversation ended with a decision to move the next meeting from the day before Thanksgiving to November 19th, and participants were encouraged to think of potential goals for presentation at the next meeting.	The committee has no further recommendations
Presenter: Tonia Shelton Topic: Stroke Education Workgroup	Tonia shared the 2025 best practice calendar. If anyone can't present or would like a new date to present, please contact	The committee has no further recommendations



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	Merjani. She also showed the 2026 calendar which is completely and open for volunteers to sign up.	
Presenter: Members Topic: Open Discussion	There was no other open discussion.	The committee has no further recommendations
Next Meeting / Adjournment	There being no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be held Wednesday November 19, 2025, at 1:00pm – 2:30pm	Code Words Wednesday/Tacos

Sep 25, 2025	Ilesha Johnosn	UTMB Clear Lake	
Sep 25, 2025	Ilesha Johnosn	UTMB Clear Lake	
Sep 25, 2025	Marian Skewes	Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital	
Sep 25, 2025	Tonia Shelton	Houston Methodist West Hospital	
Sep 24, 2025	Kathleen Cablitass	Memorial Hermann Katy	
Sep 24, 2025	Gracia Grohn	HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood	
Sep 24, 2025	Darrell Fales		City of Seabrook
Sep 24, 2025	Regina Bonton	HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress	
Sep 24, 2025	Stephen Autrey		City of Sugar Land
Sep 24, 2025	Katie Horton		
Sep 24, 2025	Kristy Esterline	Houston Methodist Cypress	
Sep 24, 2025	ryan hiatt		Integrity Alliance Partners LLC
Sep 24, 2025	Suzanne Dominey		
Sep 24, 2025	Anita Anhwere	HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress	
Sep 24, 2025	Isabel Gonzales	Memorial Hermann TMC	



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Sep 24, 2025	Sean Hayes	North Channel EMS/ HCESD6
Sep 24, 2025	Merrilee Littlewood	Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
Sep 24, 2025	Angelica Antaran	Memorial Hermann Cypress
Sep 24, 2025	Monika Sukaviriya	Memorial Hermann Greater Heights
Sep 24, 2025	Ada Vaglienty	St. Joseph Medical Center
Sep 24, 2025	Madonna Pardilla	Houston Methodist Hospital (TMC)
Sep 24, 2025	Ashley Richards	HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast
Sep 24, 2025	Naylon Bird	Ben Taub General
Sep 24, 2025	Margarita Longoria	Memorial Hermann Southwest
Sep 24, 2025	Courtney Oberndorfer	CHI - Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center
Sep 24, 2025	Erika Sirchia	Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands
Sep 24, 2025	Joyce Cabriana	Memorial Hermann Northeast
Sep 24, 2025	Donna Samuel	Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital
Sep 24, 2025	Tressa Sumners	Memorial Hermann Memorial City
Sep 24, 2025	Letrida Rhyans	Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands
Sep 24, 2025	Traci Prenat	Memorial Hermann Southeast
Sep 24, 2025	CLAUDIA ROCHA	HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest
Sep 24, 2025	Yasmin Molly-Mehlfelder	Memorial Hermann Southwest
Sep 24, 2025	TIFFANY DELAURENTIS	Huntsville Memorial
Sep 24, 2025	Cori Gibson	HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball
Sep 24, 2025	Karissa Stasik	HCA Houston Healthcare Conroe
Sep 24, 2025	Lacy Hess	HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake
Sep 24, 2025	Susan Zamora	Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital
Sep 24, 2025	Evgeniya Muzhetskaya	Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands
Sep 24, 2025	Kathleen Cablitas	Memorial Hermann Katy
Sep 24, 2025	Madonna Pardilla	Houston Methodist Hospital (TMC)
Sep 24, 2025	Angelica Antaran	Memorial Hermann Cypress



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Claudia Rocha

HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest

Sep 24, 2025

Madonna Pardilla

Houston Methodist Hospital (TMC)

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Cristy Cicchi

CHI - St. Luke's Sugar Land



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