



SETRAC Stroke Committee

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Houston Methodist The Woodlands
In-person/Virtual Meeting

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TOPIC	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP
<p>Presenter: Tonia Shelton Topic: Call to Order/Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Tonia Shelton called the meeting to order. Minutes from January 28, 2026, 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.</p>	<p>The committee has no further recommendations.</p>
<p>New Business: Presenter: Melanie Aluotto Topic: 2026 Stroke Update Taskforce Topic: Stroke Coordinator Manual Topic: SETRAC Letter of Intent</p>	<p>Tonia started thanking Erica Ruiz from Imperative care for sponsoring lunch for today's meeting. Melanie announced the formation of a task force led by Dr. Kamal and Dr. Savitz to review the new 2026 AHA Stroke guidelines and make recommendations for the regional plan. She also discussed updates to the Stroke Coordinator Manual, which hasn't been revised since 2015, and requested volunteers to help edit it. Additionally, Melanie also reviewed the process for submitting a letter of intent to SETRAC for new or changed designations, which includes presenting to the Stroke Committee about the facility's demographics and services.</p>	<p>The committee has no further recommendations.</p>
<p>Best Practice Presentation: Presenter: Houston Methodist West - Tonia Shelton Topic: Core Stroke HOP-23</p>	<p>Tonia Shelton from Houston Methodist West presented on Core Stroke HOP-23 Compliance. She addressed CMS guidelines compliance, noting that the hospital's rating dropped from 5 stars to 4 stars in 2023, and presented their process improvement efforts, particularly focusing on HOP 23 compliance which needs to reach 80% or greater. Tonia discussed the Stroke Care Metrics Improvement Initiative presenting data on stroke care metrics, showing current compliance rates below goals across multiple time intervals including door-to-physician assessment and CT completion times. She shared how the team identified two key areas for improvement: physicians seeing patients within 10 minutes and CT ordered to CT started times. To address these issues, they developed a stroke tool to track patient times and implemented regular reporting to leadership, resulting in an increase from 47% compliance in 2025 to 75% currently. There was open discussion between the members on this topic.</p>	<p>The committee has no further recommendations.</p>



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<p>Presenter: Dr. Haris Kamal Topic: Prehospital LVO Stroke Topic: AHA Thrombolysis Guidelines Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Kamal reviewed and discussed the Prehospital LVO Stroke Identification & Triage. He discussed the importance of proper triage for patients with large vessel occlusion (LVO) strokes, emphasizing the need to bypass primary stroke centers (PSCs) and transfer patients directly to thrombectomy-capable hospitals to reduce treatment delays. He highlighted that current LVO screening practices by EMS personnel are suboptimal, with less than 50% of paramedics utilizing LVO detection tools in the field. He focused on implementing a pre-hospital stroke severity scale for EMS services. They also discussed the validation limitations of current scales and proposed forming a work group with members from the Stroke and EMS committees to develop implementation strategies. The group agreed on the need for education, protocol development, and data tracking, including conducting pre and post surveys.</p>	<p>The committee proposed a Quality Improvement project to standardize the use of an LVO screening tool across Houston-area EMS sites to improve patient outcomes and reduce delays in treatment. They agreed to form a task force to provide guidance on implementing these extended window protocols across the region.</p>
<p>Presenter: Melanie Aluotto Topic: SETRAC QI Program</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The committee has no further recommendations.</p>
<p>Presenter: Grace Farquhar Topic: Stroke Data</p>	<p>Grace focused on reviewing stroke data from 2020 to Q4 2025, highlighting trends in stroke volumes and thrombolytic administration. She reviewed regional stroke data, including thrombolytic administration metrics, which showed declining performance compared to national benchmarks, particularly in meeting 30-minute and 45-minute goals. The discussion highlighted data quality issues, with many entries marked as "not documented" or incorrectly categorized, particularly regarding mild non-disabling strokes. SETRAC announced that facilities not meeting goals would be required to implement PI projects around door-to-thrombolytics, and mentioned an upcoming database</p>	<p>The committee has no further recommendations.</p>



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	upgrade that would make it easier to identify documentation issues. The conversation ended with a discussion about potential reasons for misclassification of stroke severity levels	
Presenter: Tonia Shelton Topic: 2026 Committee Goals Topic: Stroke Coordinators Subcommittee	Tonia reminded everyone of the 2026 goals for Stroke Committee Goals and improving stroke care in the region. SETRAC's Stroke Committee goals include reducing patients presenting outside the thrombolysis window to less than 45% by 2026, providing at least one CEU education, implementing a rehab utilization discharge callback pilot, and achieving a 50% regional door-to-thrombolysis time of less than 30 minutes.	The committee has no further recommendations
Presenter: Tonia Shelton Topic: Stroke Education Workgroup	Tonia shared the 2026 best practice calendar. If anyone can't present or would like a new date to present, please contact Merjani.garcia@setrac.org	The committee has no further recommendations
Presenter: Members Topic: Open Discussion	Suzanne from Genentech announced her transition to a new role and provided updates on available resources and support contact information for stroke care. 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 May 27, 2026, at 1:00pm – 2:30pm	Code Words Red/Green

Mar 27, 2026	Sandra Small	Memorial Hermann Sugar Land
Mar 26, 2026	Iesha Johnson	UTMB Clear Lake
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Mar 26, 2026	Ilesha Johnosn	UTMB Clear Lake
Mar 26, 2026	Joyce Cabriana	Memorial Hermann Northeast
Mar 26, 2026	Merrilee Littlewood	Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
Mar 25, 2026	Lenora Watson	Ben Taub General
Mar 25, 2026	Isabel Gonzales	Memorial Hermann TMC
Mar 25, 2026	Vi Nguyen	Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center
Mar 25, 2026	Kathleen Cablitas	Memorial Hermann Katy
Mar 25, 2026	Anita Anhwere	HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress
Mar 25, 2026	Ashley Richards	HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast
Mar 25, 2026	Christopher Milam	St. Luke's Sugar Land
Mar 25, 2026	Christopher Milam	St. Luke's Patients Medical Center
Mar 25, 2026	Tracy Nutt	St. Joseph Medical Center
Mar 25, 2026	Madonna Pardilla	Houston Methodist Hospital (TMC)
Mar 25, 2026	Madonna Pardilla	Houston Methodist Hospital (TMC)
Mar 25, 2026	Jeremy Jones	St. Luke's at The Vintage
Mar 25, 2026	Aji Kurian	Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
Mar 25, 2026	Karissa Stasik	HCA Houston Healthcare Conroe
Mar 25, 2026	Leila Semaan	Memorial Hermann Memorial City
Mar 25, 2026	Donna Samuel	Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital
Mar 25, 2026	Courtney Oberndorfer	Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center
Mar 25, 2026	Angelica Antaran	Memorial Hermann Cypress
Mar 25, 2026	Kristy Esterline	Houston Methodist Cypress
Mar 25, 2026	Taylor Grow	Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
Mar 25, 2026	Susan Zamora	Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital
Mar 25, 2026	Regina Bonton	HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress
Mar 25, 2026	Jason Lee	Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital
Mar 25, 2026	Andrew Smith	



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Mar 25, 2026	Theresa Eschete	St. Luke's The Woodlands
Mar 25, 2026	Lacy Hess	HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake
Mar 25, 2026	Laura Halberdier	HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood
Mar 25, 2026	Erika Sirchia	Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands
Mar 25, 2026	Letrida Rhyans	Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands
Mar 25, 2026	Edwina Horton	HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest
Mar 25, 2026	Tressa Sumners	Memorial Hermann Memorial City
Mar 25, 2026	Jennifer Rodil	Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
Mar 25, 2026	Tiffany DeLaurentis	Huntsville Memorial
Mar 25, 2026	Kathleen Cablitas	Memorial Hermann Katy
Mar 25, 2026	Angelica Antaran	Memorial Hermann Cypress
Mar 25, 2026	Edwina Horton	HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest
Mar 25, 2026	Aji Kurian	Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
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Mar 25, 2026	Laura Halberdier	HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood



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