

SFHS3

Assess individuals with suspected stroke or Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)



Overview

This standard is about carrying out an initial assessment of individuals with suspected stroke or Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA). The assessment may take place in a variety of acute and/or community settings.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 clearly explain your role and responsibilities to the individual and their carer(s)
- P2 communicate with the individual and their carer(s) in an appropriate manner, and encourage them to seek clarification of any procedures, information and advice relevant to them
- P3 adopt and adapt an appropriate consultation style
- P4 respect the individual's and their carer(s) privacy, dignity, wishes and beliefs
- P5 seek the individual's consent to the assessment process
- P6 minimise any unnecessary discomfort and encourage the individual's, and where necessary their carer(s), full participation in the assessment
- P7 ask the individual to explain what has happened in their own words, if possible, or obtain the story from any person accompanying the individual and establish time of onset
- P8 ask appropriate questions that will enable you to assess whether the individual may be experiencing a stroke or TIA
- P9 obtain details of the individual's relevant medical history if possible
- P10 obtain information about the individual's current and past medications if possible
- P11 carry out baseline observations and investigations relevant to assessing the presence of stroke or TIA according to your role
- P12 refer the individual for further investigation or hospital admission, if required, with appropriate urgency and following national, local and organisational guidelines and protocols
- P13 explain to the individual and their carer(s) why you are requesting hospital admission, what can be expected to happen, and the expected timescales and possible outcomes
- P14 make a full, accurate and clear record of the information obtained, results of baseline observations and tests, and any agreed follow-up action

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the symptoms associated with stroke and TIA (e.g. face, arm and leg weakness, speech problems) and the actions you should take in response to these
- K2 how to carry out a clinical examination of individuals using a validated appropriate assessment tool
- K3 the baseline observations and investigations, and how and when to perform them
- K4 the equipment used for obtaining baseline observations
- K5 how to interpret results of baseline observations and tests
- K6 the conditions that predispose to stroke and TIA
- K7 high risk groups including those with previous stroke or TIA, those with other conditions such as hypertension, atrial fibrillation, hyperlipidaemia, and those with genetic predisposition
- K8 conditions which may be present with similar symptoms to TIA or stroke
- K9 how individuals' current medication may affect their symptoms
- K10 the aspects of individuals' and their families' past medical history which may be relevant to the assessment of stroke and TIA
- K11 how to interpret the results of investigations and measurements for individuals at risk of stroke and TIA
- K12 who and how to refer individuals if the individual has had a stroke or TIA
- K13 the guidance that is available for your own professional practice and the sources of the guidance
- K14 the legislation which relates to your work including: health and safety, confidentiality and information sharing, the provision of services, individuals' rights, equality and diversity, consent and unified assessment
- K15 the professional standards and codes of practice for your area of work and how to interpret and apply these
- K16 the nature, aims, objectives, values, policies and systems of the organisation in which you work
- K17 the nature, extent and boundaries of your work role as well as the roles of other relevant practitioners
- K18 the ethics and practices concerning consent and confidentiality, and the tensions which may exist between an individual's rights and the organisation's responsibility to individuals and the individuals ability to give consent
- K19 how to complete and structure records and reports so that they contain all of the essential information and are suitable for others to use
- K20 how to communicate with a range of individuals who may have limited and different abilities to communicate
- K21 the ways in which communication can be modified and altered for

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different needs and contexts

K22 how to ask questions, listen carefully and summarise back

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Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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