

Stroke: Who is on Your Care Team

Our stroke team is dedicated to providing you with the best personalized care. The team includes staff with many different skills who work together to help you. Below is a list of the members of your care team. Feel free to ask any questions to anyone on the team.

Type of Specialist	Goal of Therapy
Attending Physician	A doctor who leads the stroke team. They decide on testing, treatment, and how you can prevent future strokes.
Cardiologists	Doctors who specialize in taking care of the heart. They determine if you have any heart problems that may have caused your stroke.
Care Managers	Registered Nurses who partner with you, your family, and the medical team to improve the coordination of care during your hospitalization and ensure a safe discharge.
Clinical Psychologist	A specialist who provides continuing and comprehensive emotional and behavioral healthcare for individuals and families.
Consulting Physicians	Doctors who specialize in an area related to your medical condition and advise on your care.
Dieticians	Provides you with a diet plan to fit your needs.
Neuro-Intensivist	A doctor who specializes in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) procedures and has skills in reviving the brain.
Neuro-Interventional Radiologist	Uses imagery to guide gaining access to vessels and organs or organ structures.

Neurologists	Doctors who specialize in neurology (the central nervous system) and treat disorders that affect the brain, spinal cord, and nerves.
Neuroradiologist	Specializes in the use of radioactive substances, x-rays and scanning devices for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nervous system.
Neurosurgeon	A doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and surgical treatment of the nervous system and brain.
Nurses	Registered nurses assess, monitor and care for you during your hospital stay. They advocate for your care with all of the team members. The nurses will teach you how to care for yourself and how to prevent another stroke.
Nurse Practitioners (NP)	Nurses who are trained and qualified to examine, diagnose, and treat certain medical conditions. They discharge patients under the supervision of the physician.
Occupational Therapists (OT)	Therapists who provide a holistic approach (mind, body, spirit, and emotion) to help people reach the greatest level of function (activities of daily living) and independence to achieve the best result for health improvement during stroke recovery.
Physicians Assistants (PA)	Physician Assistants practice medicine on teams with physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare workers. They examine, diagnose, treat certain medical conditions and discharge patients under the supervision of the physician.
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R)	Doctors dedicated to enhancing and restoring functional ability and the quality of life to those with physical impairments or disabilities after a stroke.

Physical Therapists (PT)	Therapists who are trained in all aspects of anatomy and physiology related to normal function, with an emphasis on movement. They help stroke survivors to regain strength, coordination, balance, and control of movement including walking, climbing stairs, getting into and out of bed.
Rehabilitation Psychologists	Specialists in clinical psychology that focus on the application of psychological principles for persons who have an injury or illness. They assess and treat cognitive, emotional, and functional difficulties, and help people to overcome barriers to participation in life activities.
Resident Physicians	Doctors who practice medicine under the direct or indirect supervision of an attending physician. They often help with monitoring and communicating with the attending physician and other disciplines.
Social Workers	Specialists who support patients, care givers and families with managing your response to your illness or treatment, financial and emotional issues, and grieving.
Speech-Language Pathologists	Therapists who assess and treat communication and swallowing disorders after stroke.
Stroke Fellow (doctor)	A doctor who is extending his/her training specifically in the area of stroke.
Techs and Nurse Assistants	Specialty trained assistants who provide care in many ways, for example taking vital signs, documenting your information, taking care of your hygiene and toileting needs and giving important feedback to nurses.

Unit Hosts	Specialty trained staff who support the nursing staff and facilitate the daily operations of the unit, such as gathering medical supplies and equipment. They help keep the unit organized and provide guest services.
-------------------	--

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Anne McLeod RN DNPc
Reviewers: Stroke Education Committee

Patient Education by [Michigan Medicine](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#). Last Revised 03/2017