

CLINICAL PATHWAY
CATASTROPHIC STROKE

Inclusion Criteria:

- Not expected to survive
- Comatose
- May not leave hospital

Clinical Pathways are not considered a substitute for professional judgement

Phase:	Supportive Care Phase			
Date:	Date Initiated: ___/___/___			
PATIENT OUTCOMES	Stroke team assessments available on the chart or on-line: _____ Possible emergencies identified and patient specific orders in place Family aware of prognosis and treatment plan: _____ Family preparation for grieving process DNR order written: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No If No, plan of care discussed with family: _____ Family meeting, as required, to discuss treatment options: _____ Provide a peaceful environment for the patient and family with the goal to manage symptoms to improve patient comfort.			
TEACHING	Family updated on medical status Tissue/organ donation discussed with family (if appropriate): _____ Address any questions related to stroke team involvement with family: _____ Provide family with education on the dying process Inform family of emotional/spiritual supports available			
DISCHARGE PLANNING CRITERIA	Re-assessment for rehabilitation or LTC if improvement in condition Cultural/Religious/spiritual needs addressed in relation to end of life care: _____			
Pathway Reviewed with Patient/Family (initial):	___ Yes ___ No			
Signatures:		Initials		Initials
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____



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SUPPORTIVE CARE PHASE	
INTERVENTIONS	
Assessments	Assess oral status Assess for dyspnea Assess for other signs of discomfort Assess for change in status Identify any complementary therapies in use Vital signs if indicated Neuro checks if indicated Identify if advanced directive in place Assess for discontinuation of unnecessary therapies and interventions, in collaboration with the family
Consults	Refer as needed: Religious and Spiritual services Palliative Care Services Regional organ transplant team, if appropriate
Tests	Completed investigative tests available (as per Stroke Emergency/Acute Clinical Pathway) Consider discontinuation of all diagnostic testing
Treatments	Bereavement counselling Family meeting If appropriate, consider the following for symptom management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skin care - Suction prn - Complementary therapies - Mouth care
Medications	As per patient specific orders Consider discontinuation of medications not required for symptom management
Nutrition	Consider nutritional plan Discuss with family, hydration plan
Activity/Safety	Safety measures in place Regular positional changes versus end of life comfort measures. If death imminent, do not disturb patient.
Elimination	Bowel/Bladder management established

