

INTRODUCTION

This program is an initiative made available to Nurses in the Southwestern Ontario (SWO) region for use as an acute stroke unit (ASU) orientation **self-directed learning program**. Other interprofessional team members are encouraged to access the orientation.

The program is currently available online and can be printed in a binder format (paper copy). There is no concern for copyright issues, as all references are included. To access the program components, visit www.swostroke.ca/acute-stroke-unit-orientation.

To better improve our resources, SWO Stroke Network is assessing this program based on pre- and post-testing; these are available online. Those participating in the ASU Orientation are encouraged to take the online pre-test before starting the Orientation, and the post-test upon completion. This is a great way to assess your knowledge and measure the impact of the ASU Orientation guide.

The orientation consists of eleven Stroke Care Topics that can be completed in any order and are arranged as separate modules, each with its own quiz. Each module should take 20-45 minutes to complete depending on the module and the nurse's background/experience. A score of 80% is considered a passing score. The quiz may be completed as many times as needed to achieve this passing score, encouraging reflection. The answer key will be posted, as it is acceptable that the quizzes be done in an "open book" format.

The Nurse Clinician and/or Designate will be the official monitor and tracker of the orientation program, indicating how long it should take for orientation completion, as well as accepting and marking all the quizzes and issuing certificates of completion to each nurse if they see fit.

The *Acute Stroke Unit Orientation Program* consists of eleven core modules:

1. Neuroanatomy, Pathophysiology, and Stroke Syndromes
2. Acute Stroke Management
3. Pre-hospital and Emergency Management
4. Diagnostics and Assessments
5. NIHSS or CNS Training
6. Swallowing, Nutrition and Oral Care
7. Mobility, Positioning, and Transfers
8. Secondary Stroke Prevention
9. Cognition, Perception, and Behaviour
10. Mood and Behaviour Changes
11. Sexuality Post-Stroke

Supplemental modules should be reviewed as per the official monitor's instructions and include;

- Dysphagia Screening
- Monitoring
- Pharmacology
- Hospital Specific Chart Forms
- Other Resources

*please print and keep your organization's own forms in these sections.

Common Themes

You will notice common themes running throughout the modules. These items have been included to highlight and remind the learner of their importance in the stroke survivor's journey. Symbols on the Learning Objectives pages indicate which themes to look for in the content.



Nursing Assessment



Interprofessional Collaboration



Patient and Family Education



Rehabilitation



Transitions and Community Re-engagement

Staying current

Each nurse is encouraged to review this orientation package every one or two years and demonstrate a score of 80% or better on each of the module's quizzes, or as predetermined by their unit leadership or organization.

While every effort is made to keep the content of this resource up to date, for the most current recommendations always refer to the Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for Stroke Care at www.strokebestpractices.ca

Core Competencies for Stroke

This resource was developed to support the education of regulated health professionals by providing a framework for learning, identifying knowledge, skills and values that cross the core competencies of all the disciplines and are important to the delivery of best practice stroke care.

They are relevant to continuing education and coordinated stroke care delivery as they:

- Are guides for learning and clinical practice.
- Form the basis for orienting new staff.
- Can assist individuals and teams with identifying priorities for education.
- Form the basis of a learning plan for tracking personal learning objectives and ongoing professional development activities.
- Support educators responsible for professional development.
- Guide managers who are challenged to support staff development with limited resources.
- Encourage evidence-based practice.
- Encourage interdisciplinary team functioning.
- May interface with stroke care pathways, care guides, other relevant organizational initiatives related to the provision of stroke care.

Health care providers are encouraged to view the Core Competencies for Stroke at

<https://www.corhealthontario.ca/resources-for-healthcare-planners-&-providers/core-competencies>

In addition to Nursing, stroke core competencies are provided for Occupational Therapy; Physiotherapy; Recreation Therapy; Social Worker and Speech Language Pathology. Each core competency with their respective learning objectives are listed. In addition learning resources and suggested evaluation methods are also provided. In this resource we have included a copy of the Nursing Core Competencies: [Self Evaluation Template](#)

Evaluation

Completion of the pre- and post-tests online will provide the best information about the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network Acute Stroke Unit Orientation package. In addition, an electronic evaluation of the resource can be located on the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network website at www.swostroke.ca/acute-stroke-unit-orientation. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.