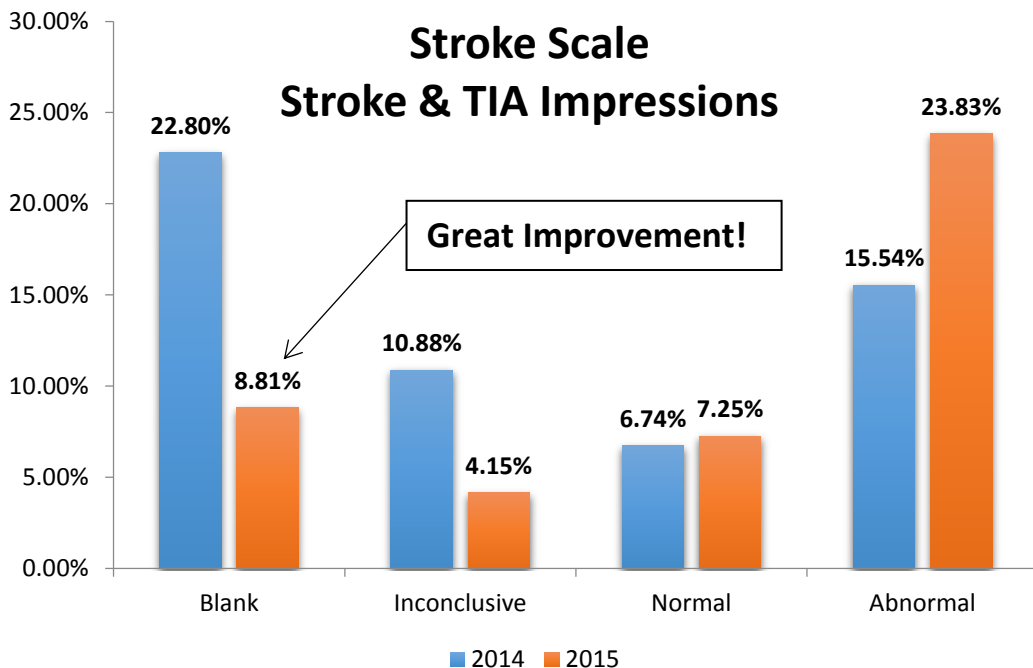


Basic Stroke Care in NH Follow-up 4/1/15

Stroke Scale Stroke & TIA Impressions



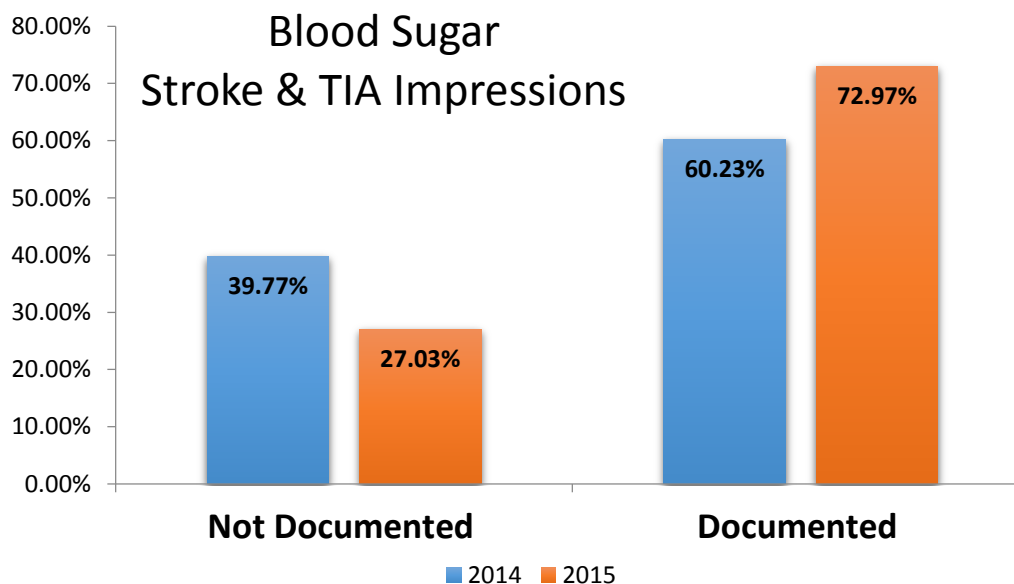
Documentation of Stroke Scale

The Stroke Scale field was moved into the main vitals section to make documentation of the stroke scale simpler. NH EMS Providers left that field blank far less often in March of 2015 than the same time frame last year (see chart left). In March, 2014 the stroke scale field was left blank almost 23% of the time. For March, 2015 the field was only left blank around 9% of the time.

This is a great improvement in only 24 days! Thanks to all the EMS Providers for their diligence in documenting the stroke scale for a patient having stroke/TIA signs and symptoms.

Documentation of Blood Glucose

As part of the NH EMS Protocols, blood sugar is required for any impression of stroke/TIA. For 2015, TEMSIS data shows an increase in proper documentation of blood sugar (see chart right). However, 27% of the time, blood sugar is not being documented in the vitals section.



The Stroke Scale field has been moved up front in the vitals section of your incident report. This should make it easier to remember to check off a Normal, Abnormal or Non-Conclusive Stroke Scale, see Figure 3 below.

The screenshot shows a software interface for an incident report. At the top, there are filter options for 'Meds', 'Vitals', 'Proc', and 'EKG', along with buttons for 'Add Med', 'Add Proc', 'Add Vitals', and 'Add EKG'. Below this, there are fields for 'Prior to Arrival?' (set to 'No'), 'Time/Date' (mm/dd/yyyy), and 'Provider Taking Vitals'. The main section contains various vital signs: Pulse, Blood Pressure (Sys/Dia), Resp, SpO2 %, SpO2 Qualifier, Responsiveness, Blood Glucose (with Hi/Lo checkboxes), and Pain Scale (0-10). The 'Stroke Scale' field is highlighted with a red border. Below the vitals section is a 'GCS' section with dropdowns for 'GCS Eye', 'GCS Verbal', 'GCS Motor', 'GCS Score Qualif', and a text field for 'GCS Total'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save & New', 'Save', 'Cancel', and 'Delete'. A blue callout box with a downward-pointing arrow is positioned over the 'Stroke Scale' field, containing the text: 'Stroke Scale Moved Up In Vitals to Make it More Visible'.

Stroke Field Findings: What does it mean?

Abnormal: a positive finding in any ONE exam (Facial Droop, Slurred Speech or Arm Drift).

Normal: a negative finding in ALL three criteria.

Non-conclusive: Subtle facial droop, slurred speech or arm drift that may be a pre-existing normal, making a conclusive finding difficult.

NH Stroke Protocol 2.20

In addition to performing a pre-hospital Stroke Scale Exam, the NH EMS Stroke protocol requires for all levels of EMS providers to also obtain a blood glucose