

## Nursing update



### Working as one for stroke care excellence

Via Christi's Comprehensive Stroke Center is more than bricks and mortar. It's also more than having a dedicated Neurocritical Care Unit with the staff and equipment needed to care for patients with acute neurological conditions like stroke.

"To achieve certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, you must have a system in place that begins with community education, outreach and partnerships with first responders and continues through readiness on every unit to recognize and respond to the needs of a patient who comes in with stroke symptoms or develops them during a hospital stay," says Kristina Willour, RN, program coordinator for Via Christi's Comprehensive Stroke Center.

It also requires continuously looking at the data and seeing what might be done to further improve patient outcomes, such as ways to reduce the average door-to-intervention time.

Says Kristina: "We recently received a large vessel occlusion stroke alert from EMS notifying us that they were bringing a patient who was a potential candidate for stroke intervention. That advance notice allowed the patient to go direct to Radiology for a CT. The door to puncture time was 66 minutes—**about 30 minutes faster than national benchmarks!** I am sure there were several contributing factors to this success, but the advance notice to the team was certainly one of them."

Kristina credits Via Christi Dispatch and operators, Neurocritical Care responders, the Emergency Department, the CT and vascular teams and Dr. Kumar Reddy for having nearly resolved the patient's severe stroke symptoms within a matter of days due to their timely treatment.

Thank you, Kristina, for this wonderful story that details how teamwork and focus on clinical excellence from a multidisciplinary team can make a huge difference in the life of our patients.

### Can't thank you enough!

During these weeks of extremely high census, we have heard many great stories of people coming together to care for our patients. Your teamwork, dedication and initiative—along with that of your Laboratory, Physical Therapy, Case Management, Respiratory and Radiology teammates—has been simply outstanding. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Special thanks, too, goes to Environmental Services, who are adjusting staffing and shifts to better align with our times of greatest need.

Also, thank you to our Wichita Trauma team and those who took such great care of WPD Officer Brian Arterburn. Wrote one of the WPD captains in a note to Todd Conklin, our chief operating officer: "You and your teams have done an outstanding job in providing care. I saw it firsthand by several of you during the initial hours after the situation occurred." As the area's first and longest continuously verified Level 1 Trauma Center, you continue to represent us well and make us all proud!