

Stroke Information Sheet for GP receptionists

Stroke is the UK's third biggest killer and a leading cause of severe disability. But the quicker someone gets a diagnosis the better their chance of a good outcome. It is vital that people recognise the symptoms of stroke and the urgent need to call an ambulance if they suspect someone is having a stroke.

It is important for people with a stroke to reach hospital as soon as possible as some patients may be eligible for clot busting drugs.

Think Speed, think FAST

If a patient calls for an appointment with the symptoms you suspect may be a STROKE

Use the FAST ASSESSMENT

**Ask
Is there**

- F Facial weakness**
Can the person smile? Has their mouth or eye drooped?
- A Arm weakness**
Can the person raise both arms?
- S Speech problems**
Can the person speak clearly and understand what you say?
- T Time to call 999!**

Or is there: Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes?

(Occasionally the blood clot lodges in the main artery which supplies blood to the eye. This results in a temporary total or partial blindness in the affected eye)

