

# A comprehensive stroke educational curriculum for neuroscience nurses

## Introduction/Problem

The American Heart Association estimates more than 700,000 strokes occur each year of which 600,000 are new and 180,000 are recurrent (Summers et al., 2009). As the numbers of stroke cases increase and care becomes more complex it is of utmost importance that nurses remain up to date with evidence based guidelines and recommendations and this can be achieved by providing nurses with stroke specific education that addresses various domains in the care of the acutely ill stroke patient. Advances in Stroke care are rapidly evolving and it is important for nurses to remain educated on the complexities of the care of the stroke patient for the goal of improving outcomes. As part of the journey to become a Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke center and meet the educational needs of the neuroscience nursing staff and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center a complex and robust eight hour computer based learning curriculum was created and assigned to approximately 110 neuroscience nurses.

## Aim/Goal

The goal was to create an educational program that would enhance and develop the knowledge of the neuroscience nurses in the area of complex stroke care for the ultimate goal of meeting a Joint Commission requirement for becoming a Comprehensive Stroke Center.

## The Team

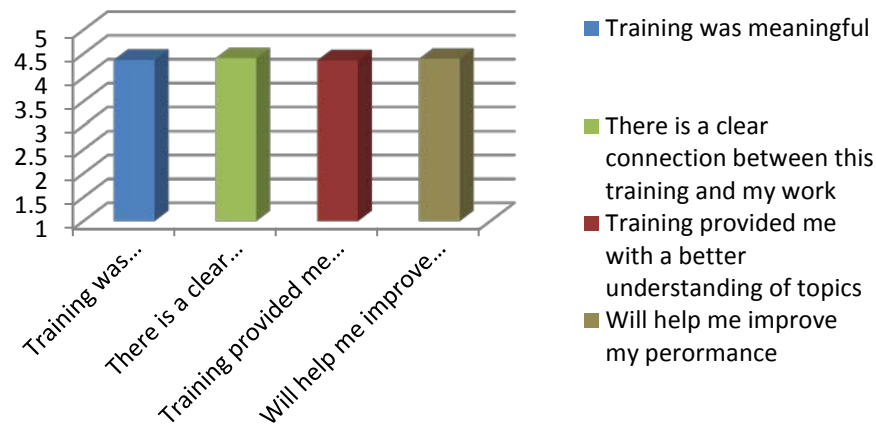
- Justin DiLibero, DNP, RN, APRN-CNS - Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Neuro ICU, NIMU, SICU
- Joanna Anderson, BSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN - Unit Based Educator for the Neuro ICU and SICU
- Lauren Sullivan, BSN, RN, CNRN, SCRNP – Unit Based Educator for the Neuro Intermediate Care Unit
- Kym Peterson, MSN, RN, CNL, - Nurse Specialist for the Neuroscience and Medical-Surgical
- Suzanne Joyner, MSN, RN – Nursing Director Neurocritical Care

## The Interventions

- A review of the literature was conducted.
- Current competencies were compared with evidence based practices and guidelines to prioritize educational needs.
- A comprehensive 8 hour stroke education computer based learning curriculum was created for all neuroscience nurses.
- The curriculum was assigned to all neuroscience nurses in the Neuroscience ICU, Neuro Intermediate Care Unit, and the Neurosciences Medical-Surgical Unit.
- Moving forward the curriculum will be updated and assigned annually to all neuroscience nurse and to each new hire

## Results/Progress to Date

### Staff Satisfaction with CSC Training



## Lessons Learned

- Advances in stroke care are rapidly evolving and for nurses to remain competent and up to date on the current evidence based practices it is important to provide meaningful education for the end goal of ensuring high quality care and improved patient outcomes.
- The feedback from the nurses has been overwhelmingly positive with many expressing how the curriculum has enhanced their knowledge base and practice.

## Next Steps

- We will continue to re-inforce curriculum content throughout the year
- The team will update curriculum annually based on program outcomes and analysis of gaps between best evidence and current practice.

