

Improvements in Emergency Stroke Care: Achievement of ASA Re-Certification

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Introduction/Problem

Prior to 2016, BID-Needham a Gold certification with the American Stroke Association (ASA) as well as Get with the Guidelines (GWTG) recognition. In 2016, BID-N focused on other aspects of stroke management which resulted in other stroke measure improvements but unfortunately a lower score for t-PA administration and therefore the loss of our GWTG recognition.

In 2016 we assessed the program and planned specific interventions to improve the overall program measures. Knowing that if these improvement methods were successful, it would take at least two years to regain a Gold certification.

Some of the challenges for this project included the small size of BID-N as a community hospital, and the resulting small number of patients entering the Emergency Department (ED) for evaluation and treatment for stroke. Because of our small size and small volume of patients, it presented a challenge for nursing staff to be educated and re-educated relative to stroke care measures and documentation. This factor played a significant role in the identification of interventions that would not only educate nurses but also sustain that knowledge regardless of the patient volume over time.

Aim/Goal

- Goals:
- Improve nursing knowledge and MD documentation re: early stroke management in the ED
 - Improve all measures of success regarding stroke care in the ED
 - Regain GWTG certification

The Team

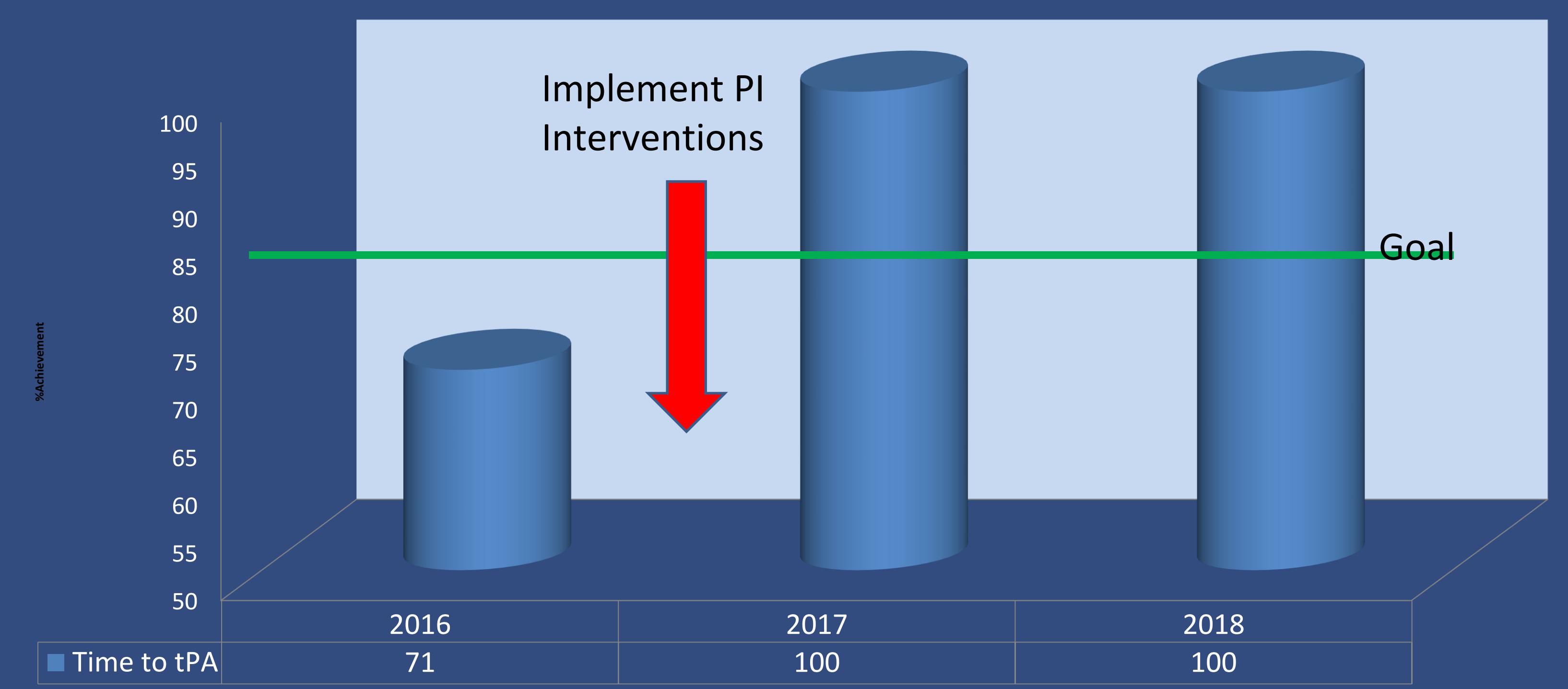
- Anna Murphy RN, ED stroke coordinator
- Gay Calo RN, Quality and Safety stroke coordinator
- Peter Smulowitz MD, ED Chair
- Leanne Wood RN, Nursing Director ED
- Margot Geffroy MD, Chair of Neurology
- Gregory McSweeney MD, CMO for BID-N

The Interventions

- Education of Nursing Staff:
 - Education re all evidence based best practices for emergency stroke care
 - Focus on Door to Needle times for t-PA
 - Simulations for stroke management in the ED
 - Practice mixing and administering t-PA
 - Created visuals for nursing reference in the ED
 - Education of MD staff regarding elements of required documentation

Results/Progress to Date

Goal Achievement: Time to t-PA



In 2016, prior to interventions, BID-N Time to t-PA achievement score fell to 71%, losing certification. After interventions, in 2017, Time to t-PA at 100%, regaining certification at silver level; Sustained in 2018 at 100%- achieving gold certification and designation as a **Target Honor Roll Hospital**

For more information, contact:
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