

ACUTE STROKE SERVICES

ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

4,707
BEDS ON STROKE
UNITS

808
HYPERACUTE BEDS
ON STROKE UNITS

85,000
acute stroke admissions
in the preceding year

157
participating
sites

1 IN 2 SITES HAVE AN UNFILLED STROKE
CONSULTANT POST

Quality of acute hospital stroke care 2021

% of sites



Staffing/Workforce

46% meet the minimum establishment of band 6 and band 7 nurses per 10 beds

9% have the presence of a clinical psychologist (qualified) per 30 beds



Access to specialist treatment & support

26% receive a pre-alert for suspected stroke patients

76% have access to a specialist (stroke/neurological specific) early supported discharge (ESD*) team



TIA service

49% provide MRI** as first line of brain imaging for TIA*** patients



7-day working

76% have an out of hours stroke specialist nurse

23% have the minimum number of nurses on duty at 10am weekends

42% offer at least two types of therapy 7 days a week†



Patient & carer engagement

40% undertake a formal survey seeking patient/carer views on stroke services



Quality improvement & leadership

61% have responsibility for audit results taken at management level

15% of sites achieved 7 out of 10 Key Indicators

*ESD Early Supported Discharge

**MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging

***TIA Transient Ischemic Attack

† Includes occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy

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Quality of acute hospital stroke organisation 2019-2021 (% of sites)

Getting better



	2019	2021	
KI 3 have an out of hours stroke specialist nurse	71%	76%	↑ +5%
KI 5 offer at least two types of therapy 7 days a week	38%	42%	↑ +4%
KI 7 have access to a specialist (stroke/neurological specific) early supported discharge (ESD) team	63%	76%	↑ +13%
KI 9 provide MRI as first line of brain imaging for TIA patients	33%	49%	↑ +16%

Plateauing



	2019	2021	
KI 2 have the presence of a clinical psychologist (qualified) per 30 beds	7%	9%	→ +2%
KI 10 have responsibility for audit results taken at management level	63%	61%	→ -2%

Getting worse



	2019	2021	
KI 1 meet the minimum establishment of band 6 and band 7 nurses per 10 beds	58%	46%	↓ -12%
KI 4 have the minimum number of nurses on duty at 10am weekends	30%	23%	↓ -7%
KI 8 undertake a formal survey seeking patient/carer views on stroke services	56%	40%	↓ -16%

Note: 9 of the 10 Key Indicators are calculated in the same way as in the 2019 Acute Organisational Audit, these are displayed above. Please note that whilst comparisons can be made for these indicators, there have been significant changes in participating sites since the last organisational audit, so please exercise caution in making any comparisons between these data. The criteria for KI6 have changed since 2019, see page 19 for further details.