



To:
Chief Executive Officers of London Acute NHS
Trusts in London
Medical Directors of Acute NHS Trusts in
London
STP Directors
STP Programme Leads for Stroke

NHS England and NHS Improvement
London Region
Medical Directorate
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29 May 2020

Dear Colleague

Restoration of London stroke pathway

During the delay phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the London Clinical Advisory Group (on 24 March 2020), agreed a proposal by the Stroke Clinical Network to temporarily suspend the London stroke pathway into hyper-acute stroke units (HASUs) for a small volume of patients, ensuring they continued to receive safe care.

These patients either self- presented, developed a stroke whilst they were under the care of the hospital or were conveyed by the London Ambulance Service with another primary condition, to a **non HASU co-located Emergency Department (ED)** (see appendix 1a and 1c). This temporary change in the pathway was implemented to reduce inter hospital transfers at a time when reducing the risk of cross-infection was paramount. No change was made to the pathway for patients who were eligible for time critical stroke treatment at a HASU.

As the health system in London enters the restoration and recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been agreement to return to the previously well-established London stroke pathway (see appendix 1b and 1d). If medically stable and a non-emergency transfer this should be done via local PTS as per the inter-hospital transfer arrangements.

This has been agreed with the London Clinical Advisory Group on 22nd May 2020 and with Dr Fenella Wrigley, Chief Medical Officer for London Ambulance Services.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on england.cardiac-strokecnldn@nhs.net.

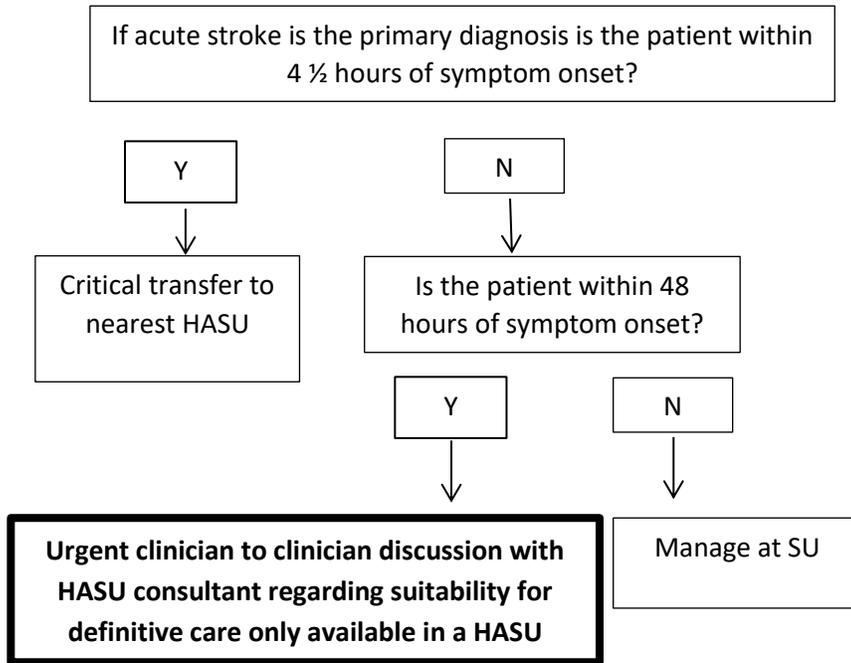
Best wishes

Jane Clegg
Co-chair
London Clinical
Advisory Group

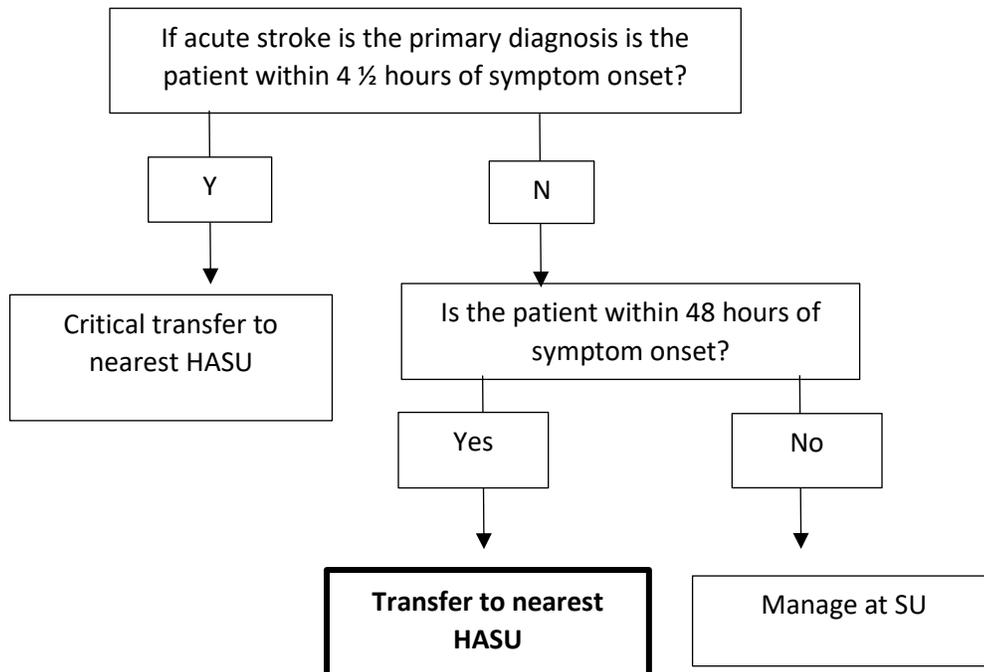
Dr Fenella Wrigley
Chief Medical Officer
London Ambulance Service

Appendix 1

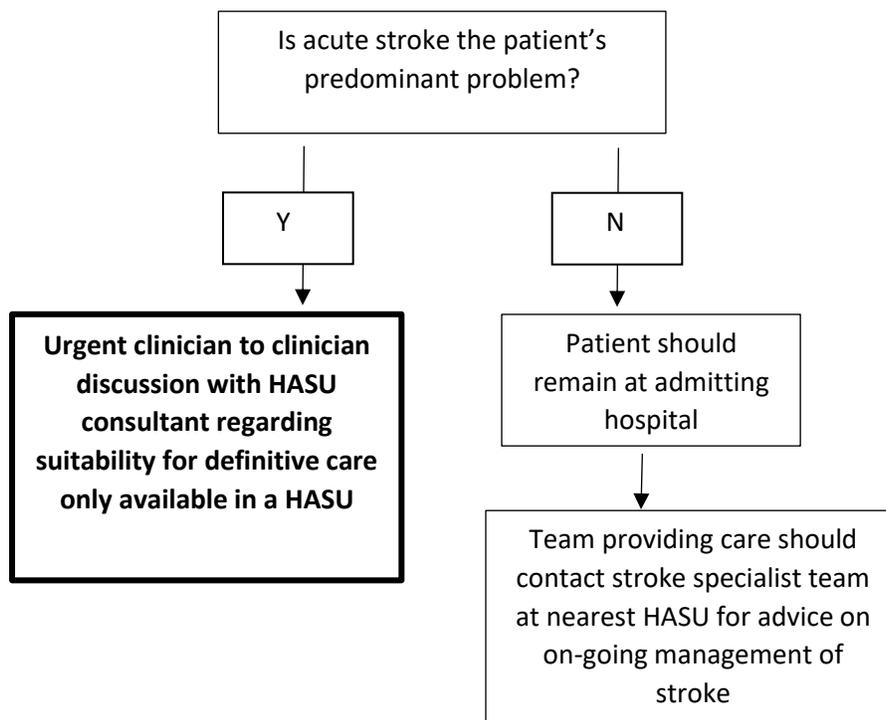
1a) Pathway for stroke patients presenting to **non-HASU ED** during **delay phase** of COVID-19



1b) Pathway for stroke patients presenting to **non-HASU ED** during **restoration phase** of COVID-19



1c) Pathway for stroke in inpatients at a **non-HASU site** during **delay phase** of COVID-19



1d) Pathway for stroke in inpatients at a **non-HASU site** during **restoration phase** of COVID-19

