

REACH - Stroke Care at WMH

Wayne Memorial Hospital offers REACH Call™ for qualifying stroke victims. REACH Call™ is a web-based telemedicine system designed to link rural emergency room physicians with neurologists at a primary stroke center. This service removes the two greatest problems associated with the treatment of acute ischemic strokes in our area.....time and the rural location of the patient.

An ischemic stroke occurs when a blood clot blocks an artery in the brain, depriving that part of the brain of oxygen. It is similar to a heart attack – just think of it as a brain attack. A stroke is a medical emergency that may be able to be treated. When the artery is blocked for more than a few hours, permanent brain damage can occur. Thanks to modern medicine, there is now a drug available that can break-up the clot and restore the blood flow **if given within the first 4 ½ hours of the on-set of symptoms.**

The REACH Call™ system uses the “hub and spoke” service model where rural emergency departments are linked to a comprehensive stroke center with 24-hour Neurologists availability. Wayne Memorial Hospital is now the “spoke” for this area and is linked with St. Joseph/Candler Hospital, which serves as the “hub” in Savannah, Georgia.



When a patient arrives at a Reach Call™ hospital (Wayne Memorial Hospital), a nurse will begin inputting vital information and connecting the telemedicine equipment so a patient consult can begin as soon as the patient returns from the CT scan. The neurologist can see and hear the patient and emergency room physician via a camera, computer and telephone. A complete neurological evaluation is done and the neurologist can also look at the CT scan pictures via computer. If the patient meets all the criteria for the drug, the neurologist will advise the emergency room physician to give the “clot-busting” medication. By using the telemedicine equipment and working with neurologists at comprehensive stroke centers, like St. Joseph/Candler Hospital, the Reach Call™ model saves valuable time, which saves brain tissue from permanent damage in many cases.



Know the Signs. Act in Time

Stroke Symptoms

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg (especially on one side of the body)
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

What should you do?

Because stroke injures the brain, you may not realize that you are having a stroke. The people around you might not know it either. Your family, friends, or neighbors may think you are confused. You may not be able to call 911 on your own. That's why everyone should know the signs of stroke - and know how to act fast.

Don't wait for the symptoms to improve or worsen. If you believe you are having a stroke - or someone you know is having a stroke - call 911 immediately. Making the decision to call for medical help can make the difference in avoiding a lifelong disability.



The REACH Equipment used by the Emergency Department at Wayne Memorial Hospital.