

# Where Are We Now?



**Stroke helpline**  
0845 3033 100

**Website**  
[www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk)

*The*  
**STROKE**  
Association

# Stroke Facts

Every 5 minutes someone in England and Wales has a stroke

- ✚ Stroke is the largest single cause of severe disability in England and Wales
- ✚ Over 130,000 people in England and Wales will suffer a stroke, over 10,000 are under retirement age

# Stroke a Priority

- ✚ Our Healthier Nation
- ✚ RCP Clinical Guidelines
- ✚ NSF For Older People – Standard 5
- ✚ NSF for Long Term Disability & CDM

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# Work still to be done to achieve a first class service

- ✚ The NSF set milestones for the establishment of specialist stroke services and protocols for the treatment of TIAs to be achieved by 2004 in England

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# Stroke Services - Evaluation

The National Sentinel Audit of Stroke (data collected between 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 04 & 7<sup>th</sup> May 04)

✚ Since 1998 has taken place on a 2 year cycle

✚ RCP devised a detailed questionnaire

✚ 100% participation: England 220

Wales 20

N. Ireland 19

Ch. Islands 3

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# Good News.....

- ✚ A steady improvement with increasing numbers having acute stroke units and stroke specialists within the different professions
- ✚ 2002 – 73% hospitals had stroke units
- ✚ 2004 – 79% hospitals have stroke units

# .....However

- ✚ Standards for the treatment of stroke is still second class - far behind those for other major conditions such as cancer and heart disease
- ✚ Only 15% admit patients immediately to the unit when they first present with a stroke

- ✚ Gains on the acute side have been at the expense of hospital and community rehabilitation
- ✚ Half of the units are dedicated to rehab only
- ✚ On a typical weekday just over half of stroke inpatients are actually on the unit

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# What is a Stroke Unit?

## Five basic criteria points used in the audit:

- ✚ A consultant physician with stroke responsibility
- ✚ Formal links with patient and carer organisations
- ✚ Weekly multidisciplinary team meetings to plan patient care
- ✚ Provision of stroke information for patients
- ✚ Continuing education programmes for staff

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# How many met criteria?

✚ 2004 - 90% have 4 or all 5 criteria

✚ Compared with 72% in 2002

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# What was missing?

## Of Stroke Units with 4 criteria

Key elements:

 Consultant Physician

 Team meetings

 Patient information

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# Main Points

- ✚ Stroke not identified as a medical emergency
- ✚ 20 Hospitals do not have a specialist service
- ✚ Size of units not changed since 2002
- ✚ Little change in number of psychologists, nurses and social workers
- ✚ 37% of hospitals that provide stroke unit care do not provide acute stroke beds

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- # Only over half (55%) of TIA patients are seen within 14 days
- # Specialist community-based services for long-term care and specialist rehabilitation services do not exist for the majority of patients
- # There has been an increase in the number of Stroke Physicians, Speech & Language Therapists and Dieticians
- # 91% of hospitals offer inpatient CT scans within 24 hours

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# The Stroke Association

- ✚ Care received in England, Wales and Northern Ireland still varies considerably
- ✚ If unnecessary suffering is to be avoided, RCP guidelines on the implementation of stroke care needs to be progressed
- ✚ We welcome the Government's continuing commitment to stroke care

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# The Stroke Association

## Vision statement

We want a world where there are fewer strokes and all those touched by stroke get the help they need.

## Mission statement

Our mission is to prevent strokes, and reduce their effect through providing services, campaigning, education and research.

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# Stroke Association Contact



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