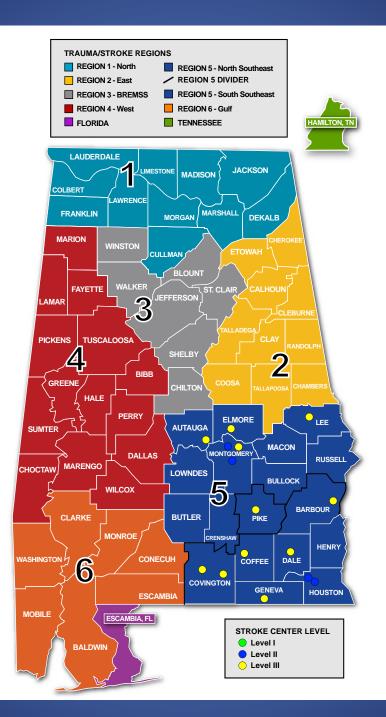
# Pre-hospital Stroke Systems: A Tale of Two Regions

Sarah Nafziger, MD, FACEP





Alabama Department of Public Health

### Goals

- Primary Goal: To get lytic eligible patients with ischemic stroke to a center that can and will safely administer TPA when appropriate
- Secondary Goal: Facilitate transfers of stroke patients (both ischemic and hemorrhagic) when needed



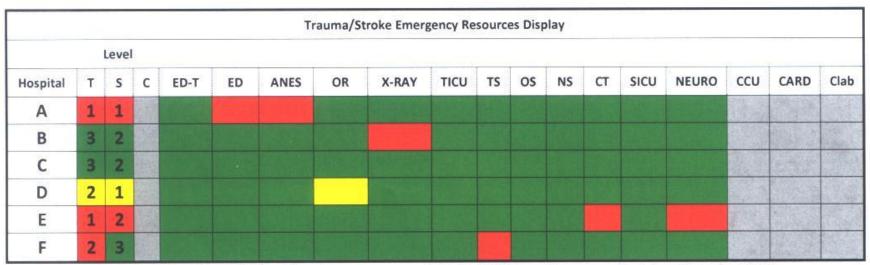
### **Ground Rules**

- Voluntary for hospitals, mandatory for EMS
- Patients identified by FAST Scale with allowance for EMSP Discretion
- Patient choice may override system IF patient is "competent to decide"
- Hospitals self-report availability in real time (red/yellow/green)





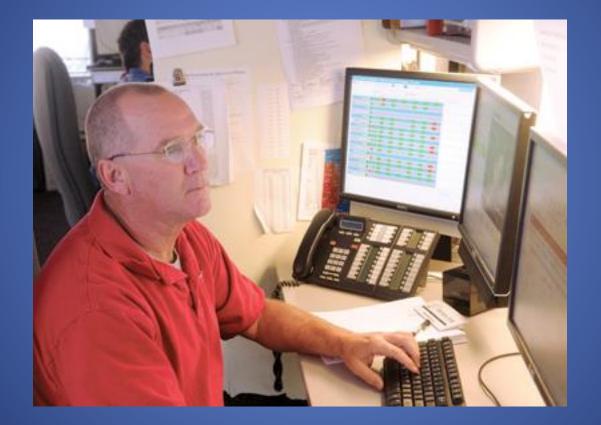
# Workstation Display



Numbers are color-coded: Green for available, yellow for resource unavailable (but still accepting some patients), red for not available. Hospital abbreviations are automatically color-coded for on-line status: Green for active, yellow for resource unavailable (but still accepting some patients



# Alabama Trauma Communications Center





### **Data Collection**

• Paper form received by FAX in ED

 Paper form returned by FAX/email to communications center

 Patients identified by unique system generated number—NO NAMES



#### **Stroke Patient Report**

LUCHIAL

TCC ID: 88948	Hospital: University of Alabama Hospital				
Report Date: 01/09/2013 Report Time: 09:15:31	System: Birmingham Region				
Date/Time Last Updated : 10/27/2012 15:2	2:46 Transport Mode : Ground-Ambulance				
Originating User Id : GJordan	Est. Departure Time :				
1st Responder : RPS - St. Clair	Est. Arrival Time :				
Transport Provider : RPS - St. Clair					
County of Incident : St. Clair					
Initial Contact Date/Time :09/12/2012 17:	18:46 Selected Hospital Status : Green				
Age: 55 Gender	:Male Override : No				
Contact Method : Phone	Hospital Selected by : Patient				
Location : Ashville, RPS 603					
Incident Time : 09/12/2012 16:	37:40				
Unit Dispatch Time: 09/12/2012 16:	37:40				
Unit Arrived Scene Time :09/12/2012 16:56:41					
Departed Scene Time : 09/12/2012 17:	03:41				
Vitals / Medical History:					
AVPU : Alert	Hypertension				
Estimated Time of Onset : 09/12/2012					
BP : 90 to 150	Past Stroke Birth Control Pills				
<b>Resp</b> :16	Past Head Injury				
Glucometer Reading : 60-299	Family History				
System Entry Criteria:					
	aneous arousal with sustained behavior				
	visual threat				
Facial Movements : Any later					
Arm/Leg Movements : Arm or le					
Language and Speech : Abnorma					
Scale Total: 6.00	GSS: 15				
BREMSS Patient Follow-up:   Hospital to Complete and FAX to 205.934.2621     CT Performed					

\* Please do not place patient name on this report. \*



# **Regional Comparison**

	Region A	Region B
Population	217 persons/sq mile	80 persons/sq mile
Design	Single tier with neurologist readily available	3-tiered with lower levels utilizing phone/telemed
Triage tool	Cincinnati stroke scale +EMS discretion	Cincinnati stroke scale +EMS discretion
Communication	ATCC	ATCC
Stroke Hospitals	11	15 (4 Level II, 11 Level III)



### Outcomes

	Region A	Region B	P value
Patients	684	878	
Data Reports	461	533	
Accuracy	54.2%	40.7%	p<0.001
Hemorrhagic	20.9%	27.5%	p=0.19
ТРА	18.7%	16.9%	p=0.78
Adverse Events	0	0	



### Cost

- Central Communications Center
- Computer Workstation in Each Hospital
- ADPH Staff
- Regional Staff
- Site Visits/Travel
- NO \$\$ to hospitals
- NO \$\$ for robust data system such as GWTG



# **Current Challenges**

- Telemedicine vs Telephone
- Some ED physicians still resistant to giving TPA
- Keep the neurosurgeons happy
- Statewide implementation



### Pitfalls to Watch For

- Be inclusive in planning
- Legislative comfort
- Think through all the things could go wrong
- Consequences for Noncompliance
- Don't skimp on your education efforts
- Face time and relationships are priceless
- Struggling hospitals

