

TIA Referral Pathway Guide

- IS THE PATIENT HAVING AN **ACUTE STROKE**? – USE **FAST**. TIME IS BRAIN! – DIAL 999
- **F** ACE – Can they smile? Does one side droop?
- **A** RM – Can they lift both arms? Is one weak?
- **S** PEECH – Is their speech slurred or muddled?
- **T** IME – Check time when symptoms appeared (OR use **ROSIER**)

Pathway for stroke or TIA patients presenting in primary care or ED The following should be considered for admission:

New onset
persisting
(>1 hr)
FAST symptoms
suggesting
stroke

TIA patients
on anti-
coagulant

Crescendo/
recurring
TIA
symptoms

Transient FAST symptoms lasting \leq 1 hour
(TIA), in the last 48 hours in higher risk
patient
ABCD2 \geq 4
*Patient should be admitted, unless they can
be seen within 48 hours at the TIA clinic*

ADMIT

Through Combined Assessment Unit for admission to the Acute Stroke Unit in University Hospital Crosshouse and follow [Acute Stroke and TIA Management - Inpatient guideline](#)

Refer the following to the Rapid Access TIA CLINIC and manage as below:

- TIA symptoms lasting < 1 hour
- Patients who have recovered fully more than 48 hours ago
- Amaurosis fugax / sudden onset visual field scotomas
- TIA in lower risk patients (ABCD2<4)
 - ❖ Prescribe aspirin 300mg daily for 14 days or until assessment at TIA clinic. Aspirin should be switched to clopidogrel 75mg daily after 14 days and continued lifelong by TIA clinic.
 - ❖ If aspirin is contraindicated, prescribe clopidogrel 300mg stat loading dose then 75mg once daily thereafter
 - ❖ Withhold non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and hormone replacement therapy/oral combined contraceptive pills
 - ❖ Continue with pre-existing anti-hypertensive therapy
 - ❖ If patient's blood pressure persistently >130/80mmHg consider introduction of anti-hypertensives (see [Management of Hypertension](#))
 - ❖ Please check bloods (full blood count, U&Es, liver function tests, cholesterol and glucose)
 - ❖ Patients aged over 60 years, with visual symptoms if possible, please arrange bloods for ESR and CRP
 - ❖ All patients with visual symptoms should be assessed by an optometrist as the TIA clinic has no facilities/expertise to carry out eye examinations.
 - ❖ Advise patient **NOT** to drive
 - ❖ Give patient TIA Clinic Information Sheet

TIA CLINIC – 24 hour phone line

Crosshouse 01563 827188