

2023 Stroke Quality Improvement Award Overview

MINNESOTA STROKE PROGRAM

Background

A successful and effective hospital stroke program requires a commitment to continuous quality improvement. These efforts drive the quality of care delivered to stroke patients, which leads to better outcomes. The Minnesota Stroke System includes 13 comprehensive stroke centers, 10 primary stroke centers, and 93 designated acute stroke ready hospitals. The monitoring of program metrics and identification of opportunities for improvement are required for all levels of designation.

Purpose

The award program's primary purpose is to recognize and showcase successful quality improvement (QI) initiatives throughout Minnesota Stroke System participating hospitals. The program also aims to:

- Provide an opportunity for hospitals to share and discuss their QI projects
- Further a culture of peer-to-peer learning and collaboration
- Encourage creative and innovative approaches to QI
- Highlight hospitals that have begun embedding health equity in their QI work

What's new in 2023?

After completing three rounds of the Stroke QI Award Program, we applied lessons learned and feedback received to make necessary updates to the application:

- We have set a longer timeline to complete the application. With this extended timeline, a program could begin a QI project and simultaneously fill out their application throughout the year as their project progresses.
- Last year, special consideration was given to QI initiatives that incorporate or address health equity but doing so was not required. For 2023, health equity prompts have been added as required elements in each section of the application.

FAQ

How do I apply?

If your hospital is participating in the Minnesota Stroke System, complete the 2023 Stroke Quality Improvement Award Fillable Application. Email the completed application to health.stroke@state.mn.us as a Microsoft Word document or PDF. You will receive an email confirmation within two business days once it has been received.

When is this due?

Applications will be accepted until **4:30 pm CT on Thursday, August 31st**.

How will the award recipients be recognized?

We plan to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the award winners on our Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Stroke Program website as well as during either a webinar or in person opportunity. Award recipients will also receive an award plaque to recognize this achievement.

How many awards will be given?

In the past, there have been six recipients awarded in three categories: Continuous Impact, Operational Excellence, and Outstanding Achievement. This is subject to change based on the number and quality of applications we receive.

Can we apply again if we were not selected last year?

Yes! We welcome you to apply again using the new application.

Can we apply again if we won an award last year?

Yes! As long as this year's application is about a new QI initiative, you are welcome to apply.

When will award winners be notified?

Applicants will receive an email notification if their application has been selected for an award no later than November 2023.

How do you score applications?

We have an internal review committee that independently evaluates each application. After each reviewer completes their scoring, all score cards are collated, and the reviewers meet to discuss the results. Applications will be scored based on:

- Clarity of the narratives
- Completeness of the answers
- Quality of plan design and implementation
- Display of results
- Incorporation of health equity

Where can I find more information on my hospital's setting?

We suggest reaching out to your hospital administration and/or quality department about the characteristics listed in the "setting" section of the application. This is information they usually

have available to describe your hospital's service area. Additionally, you could draw from your hospital's designation site visit opening presentation.

Why are health equity questions required?

The Minnesota Stroke Program is committed to continuous quality improvement. [Health equity](#) is an important part of this commitment to ensure all Minnesotans are receiving the best stroke care possible.

I want every single patient to have the best, how do I know the care provided was equitable?

One way to start incorporating health equity into your work is collecting and breaking down your data by patient characteristics, such as race/ethnicity, housing status, or insurance. This is one way to do an "equity check" to see if all patients are benefitting equitably from your improvement efforts. Stratifying by patient characteristics can provide insight into whether the issue is affecting everyone equally, or if it is affecting one group more than others. Digging deeper into your data can help you focus your work and better inform your QI initiative.

How can I incorporate health equity into my application?

We have added prompts in each section of the application to help incorporate health equity into your narratives. Depending on where you are in your project, there are a few options. If you are just embarking on your project and have identified the issue or performance measure you want to address, disaggregate your data from the beginning and tailor your approach based on what you discover. If you have already started your initiative, then you can focus on discussing health equity as it applies to your results and next steps.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO HEALTH.STROKE@STATE.MN.US

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12/28/2022 To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3934.