



Stroke services

An expert working group including clinicians and consumers from across the state has recommended changes to stroke services to ensure you receive consistent, quality care.

This consumer guide outlines the care you can expect to receive if you have a stroke, once improvements have been implemented.

Where possible, you will be admitted directly to a stroke unit for quicker access to specialist care

Evidence shows that people with stroke have better outcomes if they are treated at a specialist stroke unit by staff skilled in stroke care.

Stroke units will continue to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Lyell McEwin Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre. Where possible, you will be admitted directly to a stroke unit at one of these hospitals.

People who present to a non-stroke unit hospital will be transferred to a hospital with a stroke unit.

Your care will begin in the ambulance

Ambulances are staffed by paramedics who are highly skilled at detecting strokes and directing people to the right hospital.

This means you will be taken to the right hospital, first time, no matter what time of the night or day. The ambulance will also notify the hospital of your arrival in advance, so that the stroke team is ready to treat you quickly.

Specialist stroke services will be expanded

Most strokes occur due to a blood clot preventing blood flow in the brain. In some cases this clot can be removed by a treatment called 'reperfusion therapy'.

Stroke reperfusion services, including on-site stroke teams, will be expanded to provide you with quicker access to treatment. These services will be available 24/7 at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week at Lyell McEwin Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre.

You will receive consistent, quality care

Stroke treatment will be provided by one specialist service operating out of three hospitals (Royal Adelaide Hospital, Lyell McEwin Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre). This means you will receive the same care no matter which hospital you attend.

You will have more access to allied health services

Allied health services will be available seven days a week at all stroke units, meaning you will be able to begin rehabilitation sooner and get home quicker.

Stroke patients in country hospitals will be better supported by metropolitan stroke units

Stroke thrombolysis is a treatment to dissolve the blood clots that cause stroke. A support service for patients receiving thrombolysis in country hospitals will be expanded so that country patients are supported by metropolitan stroke units, ensuring you receive the same specialist care.

For more information

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