

Driving Advice Following Ischaemic Stroke and TIA in a Tertiary Centre: A Quality Improvement Project

Kotecha, A. Jolly, H. Nazir, F.

Institute Neurological Sciences, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow.

Aims

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has guidance for driving following a Stroke or TIA (1). The DVLA states that patients with stroke/single TIA must not drive for one month. Doctors are obliged to inform patients of medical conditions that affect their ability to drive. It is recommended that driving history is recorded for all patients and driving advice is given (2). As such, this project aimed to ensure that all patients discharged from this tertiary centre's Hyperacute Stroke Unit (HASU) had a documented driving history - and advice if relevant.

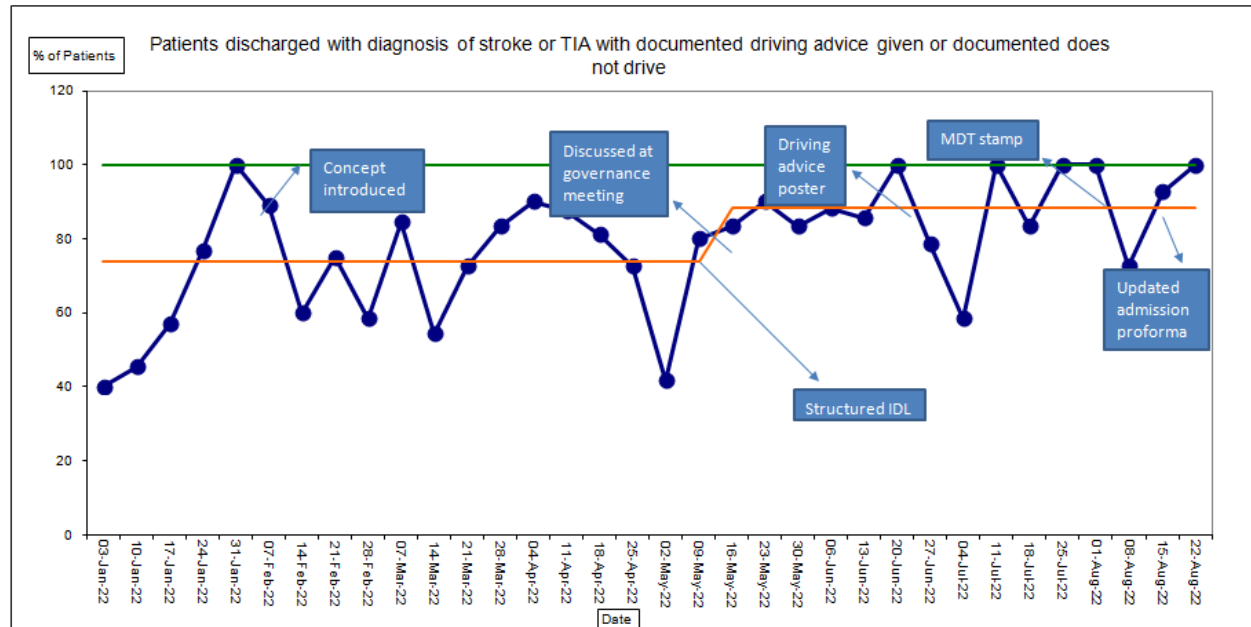
Methods

The notes of all patients discharged from HASU on a weekly basis between January 2022 and August 2022 were reviewed. Patients whose notes were not available, did not have a clinical or radiological diagnosis of ischaemic stroke or TIA, or who died during their admission were excluded. Included patients' driving status and whether or not they were given relevant driving advice was assessed using allied health professional notes, medical notes and discharge letters.

Initial baseline data was collected in order to inform interventions. Four interventions promoting the documentation of driving advice were subsequently enacted: a Stroke Immediate Discharge Letter template, a driving advice poster, a medical notes' stamp for the daily MDT and a change to the Stroke Registrars' admission proforma for stroke patients.

Results

The median proportion of HASU patients discharged each week who had documented driving advice given, or documented as does not drive, increased from 73.6% to 88.3%.



Conclusion

The proportion of patients with documented driving status significantly increased. However, the target of 100% of patients being given driving advice was not consistently met. We hope that further intervention can be informed by the demonstrated improvement from this project in order to achieve all patients having driving status recorded with driving advice given.

References

1. DVLA. Neurological disorders: assessing fitness to drive [Internet]. Driving and Medical Conditions. 2022 [cited 2022 Sep 2]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neurological-disorders-assessing-fitness-to-drive#stroke-transient-ischaemic-attack-tia-and-cerebral-venous-thrombosis--including-amaurosis-fugax-and-retinal-artery-occlusion>
2. Biswas S, Data-Chaudhuri M, Banerjee S, Radhakrishnan L. Driving after Stroke assessing the safety. *Geriatr Med.* 2006;36:78–80.