Inter-hospital Transport Protocol
Ischemic Stroke Patient who is Receiving or has Received IV tPA

Before departure from transferring hospital:

- Obtain and document vital signs, abbreviated NIHSS, LSW and family contact (cell phone preferred).
- Verify BP < 180/105. Transferring hospital to stabilize BP before transport.

During transport:

- Continuous cardiac monitoring
- Continuous pulse oximetry: Oxygen to maintain SpO2 > 94%
- Obtain and document vital signs and abbreviated NIHSS q15 mins after initiation of t-PA infusion for 2 hours, then q30 mins for 6 hours then hourly for 16 hours then q4 hours. Maintain B/P <180/105 (see below for instructions).
- Keep patient NPO
- HOB to remain @ 30 degrees unless otherwise directed by transferring facility
- t-PA infusion completion:

  When t-PA infusion is empty, replace infusion with a 50mL bag of NS (same tubing as t-PA) and continue at the same rate until IV pump indicates infusion complete, then continue at TKO rate or saline lock IV.

  Note: For best patient care, minimize pump changes to prevent loss of drug.
- Monitor for adverse effects of t-PA. For the following symptoms, **discontinue infusion immediately**, **secure airway** **(RSI as indicated)** and contact receiving facility for further instructions:
  - Angioedema / allergic reaction (swelling of throat, tongue, lips, airway compromise, shortness of breath, stridor, etc.)
  - Serious bleeding (e.g., hematemesis, flank pain suggestive of retroperitoneal bleed, etc.)
  - Acute neurological deterioration suggestive of intracerebral hemorrhage (sudden severe headache, decreased LOC, acute hypertension, etc.)
- **Blood Pressure management during transport:** (goal SBP ≤ 180 mmHg and DBP ≤ 105 mmHg). If SBP exceeds 180 mmHg or DBP exceeds 105 mmHg, **contact receiving facility for guidance**. Avoid aggressive blood pressure control. Treatment may include:
  - **Labetalol** 10 mg IV push over 2 minutes. May repeat **as directed** every 10-15 minutes to reduce BP to within goal range. (Maximum total dose of 300 mg) Hold for HR < 60.
  - If bradycardic, **Hydralazine** 10-20 mg every 2 hours IV PRN.

tPA Critical Care Transport Flowsheet

☐ Date and time patient was last known normal: _____

☐ Family contact information (name, relationship, cell phone): _____

☐ tPA information: _____ _____

loading dose/time — infusion dose / start time / end time (if complete)

VITAL SIGNS

If tPA given, then:

- Vital signs & abbreviated NIHSS every 15 min after tPA infusion x 2 hours then,
- Vital signs & abbreviated NIHSS every 30 min for 6 hours then,
- Vital signs & abbreviated NIHSS every 1 hour x 16 hours then every 4 hours

*Keep systolic less than or equal to 180 and diastolic less than or equal to 105

ABBREVIATED NIHSS

Date/Time	HR	BP	RR	SaO_2	$ETCO_2$	1a. LOC	1b. LOC Questions	1c. LOC Commands	5a. Right Arm Motor	5b. Left Arm Motor	6a. Right Leg Motor	6b. Left Leg Motor	Abbreviated NIH Total	Right Pupil Size & Reaction	Left Pupil Size & Reaction

NIHSS	Scale Definition / Function
1a. LOC (level of consciousness)	0 = Alert, keenly responsive; 1 = Not alert, arousable; 2 = Not alert, requires stimulation; 3 = Reflex or no response
1b. LOC Questions (Ask patient the month and their age)	0 = Answers both correctly; 1 = Answers one correctly; 2 = Performs no task correctly;
1c. LOC Commands (Open & close eyes, make fist- let-go)	0 = Performs both tasks correctly; 1 = Performs one task correctly; 2 = Performs no task correctly
5a. Right Arm Motor	0 = No drift; 1 = Drift down before 10 sec; 2 = Drifts to bed; 3 = No effort against gravity; 4 = No movement; UN = Amp or fusion
5b. Left Arm Motor	0 = No drift; 1 = Drift down before 10 sec; 2 = Drifts to bed; 3 = No effort against gravity; 4 = No movement; UN = Amp or fusion
6a. Right Leg Motor	0 = No drift; 1 = Drift down by end 5 sec; 2 = Drifts to bed; 3 = No effort against gravity; 4 = No movement; UN = Amp or fusion
6b. Left Leg Motor	0 = No drift; 1 = Drift down by end 5 sec; 2 = Drifts to bed; 3 = No effort against gravity; 4 = No movement; UN = Amp or fusion
Pupil Reaction	N = Normal S = Sluggish F = Fixed