Change Ideas

EMS Involvement

Place IV lines en route

Pre-notification

- Once pre-notification is received, notify stroke/neurology/ED/CT team of incoming stroke
- Create a code stroke protocol
- Look up patient history on electronic system ahead of arrival if possible

ED arrival

- Register patient as unknown to reduce time to enter patient information
- ED, stroke, EMS swarm patient to review history and condition

Change Ideas (continued)

Bloodwork

- Use point-of-care INR testing
- Do not wait for blood work unless there is specific situational reason (e.g. known use of Warfarin)

CT

- Go direct to CT on EMS stretcher if patient is stable
- Standard stroke CT imaging protocol

tPA

- Have tPA ready in ED/CT and mix immediately after decision to treat
- Give tPA in scanner

Data Feedback

- Share door-to-needle times with staff and express importance of fast treatment
- Give awards for fastest time