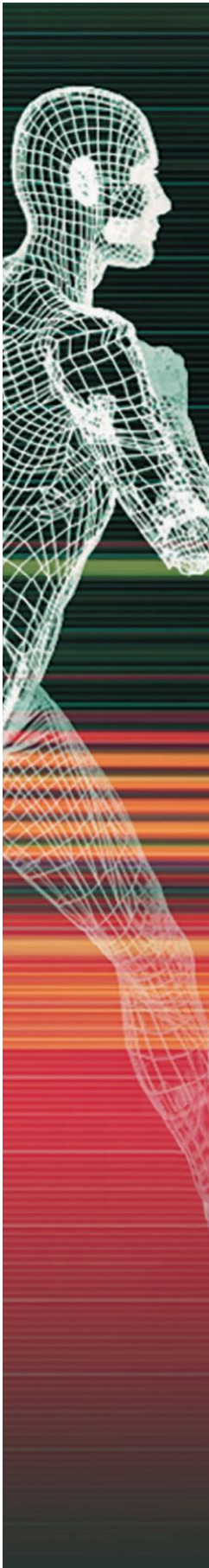# Improving Stroke Protocol Imaging Workflow

Freeport Health Enhances Time-critical Stroke Patient Care; Earns AHA/ASA Gold Plus Recognition

Every 40 seconds someone in the United States suffers a stroke, a leading cause of death and serious long-term disability. Prompt attention and treatment of stroke patients can greatly reduce disability and death, according to the American Heart Association. However, many community hospitals such as the 100-bed FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois, have only one neurologist on staff. The staffing solution they found was to collaborate with Eagle Physician Telemedicine to bring neurological expertise to the patient's bedside. Tracy Love (MSN) (RN) (CNL), Clinical Nurse Leader and Stroke/Sepsis Program Coordinator at FHN Memorial Hospital points out that, "Implementing the teleneurology process provided an additional level of expertise that has enabled our care teams to develop an evidence-based treatment plan for each stroke patient."

When a patient arrives in FHN's Emergency Department with signs and symptoms of a stroke, he/she will undergo a computed tomography (CT) head scan to assess if the patient is potentially having a stroke, and which type if so, and to determine the best course of treatment. With time of the

essence in treating stroke successfully, it is critical that the results of the CT scan be made immediately available to the local clinical care team as well as to the remote teleneurologist who will collaborate on the care.

We're here, for you.
FHN

Not only did FHN (Freeport Health Network) develop a designated "Acute Stroke Ready Hospital" which utilizes teleneurology, but they also received the Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the AHA/ASA two years in a row! In order to achieve this recognition, FHN had to meet the critical requirements for improving patient care and outcomes over a two-year period.

It was a team effort that was enabled by automating the distribution of the time-critical CT head scans. Manually routing these studies was inefficient and could result in costly delays that impacted clinical care. This required FHN to implement a solution that reliably automated the sending of the CT study to the onsite radiologist and the remote teleneurologist. FHN turned to Laurel Bridge Software and its Compass™ Routing Workflow Manager to automatically and simultaneously route the CT study, as soon as it is completed, to both the onsite team and the remote teleneurology team.

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>
> **Tracy Love, MSN (RN) (CNL)**
> **Clinical Nurse Leader & Stroke/Sepsis Program Coordinator**

Saves Time When Seconds Count

The Compass image router makes the distribution of the critical scans not only more reliable but most importantly it also saves valuable time. "Automating the process of distributing these studies to our local radiologists and remote teleneurologists was vital towards achieving the Stroke Gold Plus recognition," says Eric Dittmar, Enterprise Imaging Specialist at FHN. "In addition, it has saved our CT technologists more than 30 minutes a day, seven days a week," says Eric. This amounts to more than a man-month saved over the course of a year.

When patients admitted to FHN's Emergency Department have a stroke, distributing their head scans to multiple locations in a timely fashion is critical. It allows for rapid assessment and immediate intervention if necessary. It assures patients they will receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines. The Compass software application plays a key role ensuring that critical clinical information is delivered in a timely fashion to enable FHN Memorial Hospital to provide their patients with the best stroke care possible.
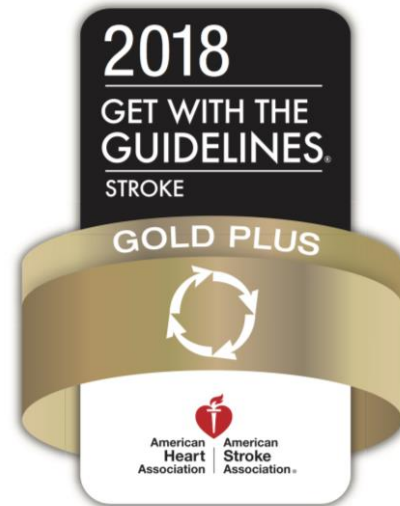
Freeport Memorial Hospital Achieved AHA/ASA Stroke Gold Plus Recognition

About Laurel Bridge Software

Laurel Bridge Software provides enterprise imaging workflow solutions that solve complex, mission-critical imaging workflows that often arise when multiple business entities and their disparate clinical imaging systems must be unified. Our solutions reliably ensure new and historical DICOM imaging studies, HL7 messages, and non-DICOM objects are available to the clinical staff, at the point-of-care.

Laurel Bridge's imaging workflow solutions are implemented at thousands of healthcare facilities, teleradiology service providers, and radiology group practices in more than 35 countries, directly and through integration partners.

More Information: info@laurelbridge.com