

# Backgrounder

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## ‘Time is brain’: seconds count when treating stroke patients

EDMONTON – There are 17 designated stroke centres across five Alberta Health Services zones.

Over the past year, the average time it takes to treat stroke patients with the clot-busting drug tPA from their time of arrival at hospital decreased across all zones.

Here is additional data on progress made in Edmonton Zone compared to provincial averages. It’s important to note average treatment times can be inflated by cases that involve difficult diagnoses or other life-threatening complications, such as cardiac events.

Zone/Facilities	Average DTN time (2012)	Average DTN time (Oct. 2016-Dec. 2016)	Percentage reduction in average DTN time (From 2012 to Oct. 2016-Dec. 2016)	Number of stroke patients (Oct. 2016-Dec. 2016)	Fastest DTN Since start of initiative
Provincial	70 minutes	32 minutes	54%	118 patients	6 minutes
Edmonton Zone University of Alberta Hospital, Grey Nuns Hospital (Covenant)	73 minutes	32 minutes	56%	40 patients	6 minutes

Stroke teams continue to work toward achieving a provincial average door-to-needle time of 30 minutes.

### Know the signs of stroke

Improving treatment times for stroke patients arriving at hospital is just one part of the equation in helping people survive without debilitating long-term consequences. It’s critical to recognize the symptoms of a stroke and seek emergency medical care immediately – time is brain.

You can use the mnemonic device **FAST** to help remember the signs of a stroke.

**F**ace: is it drooping?

**A**rms: can you raise both?


**S**peech: is it slurred or jumbled?

**T**ime: to call 9-1-1 right away.

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### Partners

## Backgrounder

Several organizations across Alberta have collaborated in QuICRR (Quality Improvement and Research) program funded by Alberta Innovates: 

**Alberta Health Services** is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

**Alberta Innovates** delivers 21st century solutions to the most compelling challenges Albertans face. Building on our province's strengths in environment, energy, health, food, fibre and emerging technology sectors, we work with our partners to diversify Alberta's economy, improve our environmental performance, and enhance our well-being. Through Alberta Innovates you can access technical expertise, the opportunity to establish new partnerships, and secure funding that will catalyze innovation. We support a broad range of research and innovation activity – from discovery to application. Partner with us to innovate faster.

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**Covenant Health** is Canada's largest Catholic health care organization with over 15,000 physicians, employees and volunteers serving in 12 communities across Alberta. A major provider in Alberta's integrated health system, Covenant Health works with Alberta Health Services and community partners to positively influence the health of Albertans through a broad range of programs and services. [Covenant.Health.ca](http://Covenant.Health.ca)

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