Fall, 2013

To: Comprehensive/Primary Stroke Centers, Stroke Capable Hospitals and Emergency Medical Service Units

Re: The Iowa Coverdell Stroke Project: Using Data and Quality Improvement Tools to Improve Triage, Treatment and Outcomes for Stroke Patients in Iowa.

About the Project

Stroke alone accounts for disability in nearly 1 million Americans and is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States, where fifteen to 30 percent of stroke survivors are permanently disabled. Stroke costs the United States an estimated $54 billion each year. This total includes the cost of health care services, medications, and missed days of work.

Since July 2012, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) through the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Program, has funded Iowa and ten other states to improve their stroke systems of care.

The goal of the Iowa Coverdell Stroke Project is to improve triage, treatment and outcomes for stroke patients.

A key strategy for reaching this goal is the development or enhancement of local Stroke Action Teams who participate with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative and the University of Iowa College of Public Health (State Coverdell Team) in quality and system improvement activities.

Participation: Teams comprised of personnel from Comprehensive/Primary Stroke Centers (CSC/PSC), Stroke Capable Hospitals and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) units are invited to participate (see flyer for additional information). The goal is to have up to 17 teams from across the state enrolled in the project. The CSC/PSC will serve as the lead organization for the team.

Data Collection: Each participating organization – hospitals and EMS units – must commit to submitting stroke related data to the Iowa Stroke Registry, which is managed by the University of Iowa College of Public Health. This data will be de-identified, aggregated and used for quality improvement throughout the project. Each individual organization will have access to its own data.

Project Sponsor: This project is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in collaboration with the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative and the University of Iowa College of Public Health, and includes training materials, on-going conference call and/or webinar support or education, face-to-face informational sessions, data collection and analysis, and networking.

Sign up now or call to learn more: For more information or to sign up for participation contact Rebecca Swift, IDPH, at 515-725-2904 or rebecca.swift@idph.iowa.gov.

There is no cost to participate in this initiative.