

<b>DNV GL Healthcare USA, Inc.</b>	<b>ADVISORY NOTICE</b>	<b>Notice No: 2020-HC27</b>
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**Advisory Notices are designed to provide official information relative to Hospital Accreditation, Certification, and Compliance activities. Should you have any questions about the content of this notice, please e-mail [dnvclientdropbox@dnvgl.com](mailto:dnvclientdropbox@dnvgl.com).**

**DATE:** December 29, 2020

**SUBJECT:** All Stroke Programs Revised Education Grid 2021

**DISTRIBUTION** All DNV GL Healthcare Accredited or Certified Hospitals, Applicant Hospitals, DNV GL Healthcare Employees, and Interested Parties

**APPROVED BY:** Cathie Abrahamsen RN, MSN, Director, Stroke Certification Programs

**DNV GL is providing notice to DNV GL Healthcare Accredited Organizations of the release of the DNV GL Healthcare Stroke Certification Education Requirements for 2021.**

We in the stroke program have spent a lot of time going over the education requirements. We have reviewed the various components, wanting to walk that line of meeting evidence-based recommendations while understanding the real world that healthcare organizations are facing every day while we try to maintain the integrity of DNV GL stroke programs. We have considered all your comments and statements of what has been happening this past year. We were very encouraged by the fact that while so many of your organization’s staff had been furloughed and/or working in direct patient care, that you still were trying to meet the education requirements. So many of you wrote or called us to let us know that you had to cancel your stroke skills day, cancel attending stroke conferences, or that there was no time for even virtual surveys. We want you to know one thing -we get it. Thank you for all you have been doing for patients and their families.

**Here are some changes that you will see in the education requirements for everyone, including physicians. You will notice that we have pushed back the timelines for compliance a full calendar year due to all the cancellations this year from COVID. The grid that we developed is easy to read and we have added many comments for clarity.**

Physician education requirements have now been added in all stroke programs. Individual physician roles and education requirements are now defined in the SM.2 CR.4 table. It will be expected to be actively put into place during the calendar year 2021. These requirements will be expected to be in full compliance and will be surveyed beginning January 1, 2022. We have tied in the physician education requirements to their appointment and credentialing cycles, so that instead of a yearly focus their requirement will be over the course of their appointment/reappointment/credentialing cycle.

Nurses and other non-physician education requirements are expected to be in full compliance by January 1, 2022. We have tried to designate areas and roles in those areas as much as we can, but we can’t possibly identify every role in every hospital so if you have a role that is not on the grid, use the grid and assign them to what you believe the role education requirement would need. See Education and Training Table (SM.2 CR.4)

**QUESTION: What will be surveyed in the year 2021?**

**I did not want to send this out without addressing this coming year as all the changes above won't need to be in compliance until January 1, 2022.**

Our experience with 2020 was really all over the place. As you can imagine, some organizations had all their 2020 education in place while others did not, through no fault of their own. How we do the education review will be a blend of circumstances. Several hospitals had all of 2019 education and so that made things easier for them. Some hospitals had to go with their 2020 education but had not completed the 2020 due to the time of the year. Often, education such as stroke skills day was cancelled, and the hospital had counted on that event to bring them the correct education hours. The issue for all of us is that you cannot recover missed or lost education requirements and corrective actions during COVID have the potential to be disrupted, since we do not have any way of knowing what our situation will be.

1. What we will do is to ask you for all your education, as usual. If you do not have any for 2020, make sure that you can show your last full year (2019) and anything else that you have done.
  - Make sure you also have your education plans that you had for 2020 that you could not complete and discuss with the surveyors.
2. If you have an education plan for 2021 to get people their hours, explaining how you will be able to provide education, please present that as well.
  - No need for a formal presentation with power points etc. Just talk it through with the surveyors
  - We are not requiring any certain format for an education plan. It is not a new required document.
3. If in 2021, you can adopt the new education guidelines presented with this notice and can show full compliance with the new requirements, we will accept that.
4. Scoring will not penalize any organization who had such an influx of COVID patients or were deeply affected by circumstances in their counties etc. While I can't say that there will never be an NC-1 given for education this year, we will strive to be cognizant of your organization's conditions and issues, we will score (if needed) with our hearts as well as our minds.

**[DOWNLOAD THE 2021 ALL PROGRAMS STROKE EDUCATION TABLE](#)**

Any questions/comments can be sent to the DNV GL Healthcare client dropbox at [DNVClientDropBox@dnvgl.com](mailto:DNVClientDropBox@dnvgl.com) or directly to Cathie Abrahamsen at [cathie.abrahamsen@dnvgl.com](mailto:cathie.abrahamsen@dnvgl.com).

Regards,

For DNV GL Business Assurance USA, Inc.

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