#### TRIAGE TOOLs for Acute Stroke < 24 hours STROKE NETWORK of Southeastern Ontario Adapted from Toronto Stroke Network & Ambulance Clinical Triage for Acute Stroke Treatment" Zhao et al. Stroke 2018 FAST Stroke Screen: FACE TIME **A**RM SPEECH OR **OR AND** is it slurred can raise is it less than is it drooping? or jumbled? both arms? 24 hours?

- ✓ One or more symptoms from Face, Arm, Speech <u>AND</u>
- ✓ LAST SEEN NORMAL <24 hours

IF ≤ 6 hours, refer to Pink Poster to activate Acute Stroke Protocol IF 6 -24 hours, Complete **ACT-FAST** 

### **ACT-FAST** Stroke Screen:

"ARM" (one-sided arm weakness)

Position both arms at 45° from horizontal with elbows straight **POSITIVE TEST**: One arm falls completely within 10 seconds

For patients that are uncooperative or cannot follow commands: **POSITIVE TEST:** 

Witness minimal or no movements in one arm & movements in other arm

#### **Proceed if Positive**

If RIGHT ARM is weak

"CHAT" (Severe language deficit)

POSITIVE TEST: Mute, speaking incomprehensible, or unable to follow simple commands

If LEFT ARM is weak

"TAP" (gaze & shoulder tap)
Stand on patient's weak side

POSITIVE TEST : Consistent eye gaze

away from weak side

Otherwise

Tap shoulder & call name

**POSITIVE TEST**: Does not quickly

turn head & eyes to you

# Proceed if Positive

# Physician will assess EVT Eligibility (Positive if All Criteria Met)

- 1. Deficits are NOT pre-existing (mild deficits now worse are acceptable as true deficits)
- 2. Living at home independently—must be independent with hygiene, personal care, walking
- 3. Does NOT have stroke mimics: seizure preceding symptoms, Hypoglycemia = glucose less than 2.8 mmol/L, Active malignancy with brain lesions

## **Proceed if Positive**

# **Additional Tips:**

If patient is uncooperative or cannot follow commands & you clearly witness minimal or no movements in one arm and normal or spontaneous movements in the other arm, THEN proceed to next ACT-FAST Step

If both arms are similarly weak, or testing is clearly affected by shoulder problems or pain, notify ED physician

- Try to use clues to guess time last seen well did someone talk to or call patient?
- For suspected Wake-Up symptoms, did patient get up overnight? Were they normal when first getting up?
- Negative eligibility if time of onset is > 24 hours
- If there is uncertainty as to time of symptom onset or whether a patient meets the ACT-FAST or Acute Stroke Protocol criteria, the ED physician can contact the neurologist on call for stroke for consultation