

Pharmacist participation in stroke response cuts door-to-needle time

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(HealthDay)—Having a pharmacist at bedside during acute ischemic

stroke is associated with significantly shorter door-to-needle (DTN) times, according to a study published recently in the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*.

Megan A. Rech, Pharm.D., from the Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., and colleagues conducted a [retrospective cohort study](#) to examine whether [pharmacist](#) presence at bedside during acute ischemic stroke correlated with a reduction in DTN times. Data were included for 125 patients who received recombinant [tissue plasminogen activator](#); 45 and 80 patients had and did not have a pharmacist present (PharmD and no-PharmD groups, respectively).

The researchers found that the median DTN time was significantly shorter in the PharmD group versus the no-PharmD group (48 versus 73 minutes; P

"These findings support the inclusion of a stroke-competent pharmacist in the bedside response team for [acute ischemic stroke](#) patients," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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