

TIA Care Pathway

Observation Unit Admission Criteria

Suspected cerebral ischemia with resolution of symptoms and negative head CT. Given subsequent stroke risk, expedited evaluation is often required necessitating admission to observation.

Initial assessment in the ED

EKG, head CT should already be completed

Initial orders

Neurology consult
MRI/MRA head and neck
Follow on telemetry
Echo with bubble study
Lipids
Neuro checks q4h

If significant carotid artery stenosis found which corresponds to symptoms, vascular surgery consult.

Convert to inpatient if:

Recurrent neurologic symptoms or if stroke found on MRI
Decision for urgent revascularization

Criteria for discharge

Hemodynamically stable
Patient at neurologic baseline
Neurology consultation complete
Imaging (MRI, echo) complete with interpretation
Decision on treatment (aspirin/Plavix/Aggrenox, anticoagulation) complete