

### **What is a critical care pathway?**

Critical care pathways are designed to offer organized and efficient care based on research. The goal is to make sure each person with a stroke receives important tests and treatments.

### **Spoiler title**

Critical care pathways differ from “normal” stroke care by following a written care plan. This plan is designed especially for persons with stroke. In most cases, checklists are created for each healthcare professional (doctors, nurses and therapists). These checklists are used to improve communication between these professionals and to make sure specific tests and treatments are done. They also help the healthcare professionals make decisions about the best treatment for an individual.

### **Is it better to receive treatment from a critical care pathway?**

While the goal of critical care pathways is to improve the results of stroke care, research does not suggest that it helps. It is not clear why critical care pathways do not result in better outcomes.

Although stroke rehabilitation units have been shown to improve outcomes, care pathways do not appear to be beneficial.

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