

Use the letters in “**FAST**” to spot stroke signs and know when to call 911.

F

Face Drooping – Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person’s smile uneven or lopsided?

A

Arm Weakness – Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S

Speech – Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.

T

Time to Call 911 – If the person shows any of the these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 911 and get them to the hospital immediately.

Note the time when any symptoms first appear. This information helps health care providers determine the best treatment for each person. Do not drive to the hospital or let someone else drive you. Call an ambulance so that medical personnel can begin life-saving treatment on the way to the emergency room.

Additional Symptoms of Stroke

If someone shows any of these symptoms, call 911 or emergency medical services immediately.

Sudden Numbness – Sudden NUMBNESS or weakness of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body

Sudden Confusion – Sudden CONFUSION, trouble speaking or understanding speech

Sudden Trouble Seeing – Sudden TROUBLE SEEING in one or both eyes

Sudden Trouble Walking – Sudden TROUBLE WALKING, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

Sudden Severe Headache – Sudden SEVERE HEADACHE with no known cause



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Information from:

“Stroke Symptoms,” American Stroke Association, stroke.org, accessed February 17, 2020

“Stroke Signs and Symptoms,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cdc.gov, published October 26, 2015; page last reviewed January 31, 2020

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