**Timing of anti-platelet administration following admission with acute stroke**

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**Background:**

The National Stroke Strategy 2007 recommends that anti-platelet treatment is given as soon as possible after an ischaemic stroke or TIA. Accordingly, targets for stroke services include the proportion of patients receiving treatment within 24 and 48 hours. As well as being a critical step in the management of individuals with ischaemic stroke this target also acts as a quality marker for the overall admission process.

**Methods:**

The case notes of every patient admitted to the stroke unit over a two week period were reviewed and the time at which each event in the chain leading up to anti-platelet dosing was recorded.

**Results:**

The results of the initial audit showed that the target for proportion of patients receiving anti-platelet therapy within 24 hours of admission was not been met. Analysis of secondary outcomes highlighted where avoidable delays were occurring.

**Key messages:**

Several simple interventions addressed deficiencies in process, leading to department meeting target on subsequent re-audit, highlighting the role of clinical governance in service improvement.

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| **Target** | **Standard** | **Initial audit** | **Re-audit after intervention** |
| Anti-platelet therapy within 24 hours of admission | 95 % | 12 / 17 = 71 %  **Standard not met** | 14 / 14 = 100 %  **Standard met** |