

# BE-FAST

## Stroke symptom screening tool

For **Triage Nurse** evaluation of **Walk-In Patients** to screen for **symptoms of stroke**  
 Symptoms due to stroke are usually **sudden** in onset and otherwise **unexplained**  
 (i.e. by trauma, intoxication, pre-existing condition)

B	E	F	A	S	T
Balance	Eyes	Face	Arm	Speech	Time
Sudden unexplained loss of balance, dizziness or vertigo	Loss of vision in one eye or one side of vision or  Double vision	Smile is asymmetric	Arm/hand (or leg) weakness	Slurred speech or trouble speaking or understanding speech	Time to notify an ED physician for stat evaluation!

- If the triage nurse identifies any of these symptoms in a patient, the ED physician should be immediately notified and the patient evaluated immediately for possible acute stroke
- If acute stroke is the suspected cause of symptoms, ED physician would then activate an ED Code Stroke

**Reference:**

- BE-FAST (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arm, Speech, Time) Reducing the Proportion of Strokes Missed Using the FAST Mnemonic. *Stroke*.2017;48:479-81.

**BE-FAST** was developed by Intermountain Healthcare, as an adaptation of the FAST model implemented by the American Stroke Association. Reproduced with permission from Intermountain Healthcare. Copyright 2011, Intermountain Healthcare.