




**WHEN STROKE
STRIKES,
ACT F.A.S.T.**



NHS



FACE

HAS THEIR FACE
FALLEN ON ONE SIDE?
CAN THEY SMILE?



ARMS

CAN THEY RAISE
BOTH ARMS AND
KEEP THEM THERE?



SPEECH

IS THEIR SPEECH SLURRED?



TIME

IF YOU NOTICE
ANY OF THESE SIGNS
MAKE THE CALL

DIAL 999

Large print version

Search 'Act Fast'

NHS Act Fast

When stroke strikes Act F.A.S.T.

Face

Has their face fallen on one side? Can they smile?

Arms

Can they raise both arms and keep them there?

Speech

Is their speech slurred?

Time

If you notice any of these signs **make the call.**
Dial 999.

Why you must act F.A.S.T.

A stroke is a 'brain attack', caused by a disturbance in the blood supply to the brain. It's a medical emergency that requires immediate medical attention. So recognising the signs of stroke and calling 999 for an ambulance is crucial.

The sooner somebody who is having a stroke gets urgent medical attention, the better their chances of a good recovery.

Transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is also called "mini-stroke". It is similar to a stroke and has the same signs, but gets better within 24 hours. However, it could be a warning sign of a more serious stroke, so it also needs to be treated as an emergency by calling 999 immediately.

Rapid diagnosis allows urgent steps to be taken to reduce the risk of having a stroke. If you think you have had a TIA in the past and have not sought treatment, contact your GP.

Reducing your risk of a stroke

Some people are more at risk of having a stroke if they also have certain other medical conditions. These include:

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Atrial fibrillation (an irregular heartbeat)
- Diabetes

It is important that these conditions are carefully monitored and treated to reduce your chance of having a stroke.

The risk of having a stroke is higher amongst people in certain ethnic groups, including South Asian, African and Caribbean. This is partly because high blood pressure and diabetes are more common in these groups.

There are also lifestyle factors that may significantly increase the risk of having a stroke. They include:

- Smoking
- Being overweight
- Lack of exercise
- Poor diet
- Alcohol consumption

Leading a healthy, active lifestyle is vital to help reduce your risk of having a stroke.

Act F.A.S.T.

Make the call. Dial 999.

For more information search '**Act Fast**' or visit the Stroke Association at **stroke.org.uk**

This leaflet is available in this and other formats from the Act Fast website or from Public Health England – please email **enquiries@phe.gov.uk**

Act F.A.S.T.

Make the call. Dial 999.

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