

Providing fast access to stroke care



Our staff took over 8,250 patients showing signs of stroke – a type of brain injury – directly to one of eight specialist centres in the capital last year.

When staff diagnose a stroke they often bypass the local A&E to take a patient to a hyper-acute stroke centre which is staffed around the clock by expert clinicians. Here patients will receive a clot-busting drug that can help restore the flow of blood to the brain which is interrupted during a stroke – increasing a patient's chance of survival and reducing the risk of disability.

The average ambulance journey time to a specialist stroke centre is 15 minutes – just one minute longer than the average journey time to a local A&E department.

[Find out more about the care we provided to stroke patients during 2011/12.](#)

Staff thanked for making Games 'so special'



Paralympics GB sitting volleyball player Martine Wright and Team GB BMX cyclist Liam Phillips have praised our staff for helping deliver a successful 2012 Games.

At an event to celebrate the work of staff in the run up to and during the Games, Martine, who lost her legs in the 2005 bombings, said: "Thank you for what you did on 7/7, thank you for what you did this summer and making the Games so special, and thank you for what you do every single day of your working lives."

Other guest speakers at the event, which was attended by ambulance staff from across the country, included the clinical lead for emergency services during the Games, Dr David Zideman, and incoming Chief Executive Ann Radmore.

Read more about our [Games event](#) and see some of the [photos on our Flickr site](#).

Bravery of individuals recognised



Ten medics, one member of the public and a police constable have received Chief Ambulance Officer Commendations in recognition of their bravery, dedication, determination and quick thinking in life-threatening situations.

One ambulance crew was commended for disarming a patient with a knife before treating him and taking him to hospital. Another medic was given the award for his quick actions that prevented an ambulance from exploding when it caught fire.

A member of the public was commended for catching a thief who stole life-saving equipment from an ambulance, while a police constable was commended for rushing to the aid of a motorcycle paramedic who was involved in an accident.

This email was sent to by London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 220 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8SD

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