

Every year, nearly 800,000 people in the United States have a stroke, and about 87% of these are ischemic, in which blood flow to the brain is blocked. Of these, as many as 46% of these strokes are Large Vessel Occlusions (LVOs), which are best treated with life-saving and disability-sparing Mechanical Thrombectomy.

Baptist Medical Center South, a 463-bed not-for-profit hospital in Montgomery, Alabama is a fantastic example of a program that recognized a community need and expanded stroke offerings to increase patient access to this new standard of care.



Expanding neuroscience capabilities at Baptist Medical Center South was determined to be a system priority as a result of a market analysis of access issues. Corazon worked with the Baptist team to construct a comprehensive plan for the implementation of advanced stroke capabilities.

### **The First Steps:**

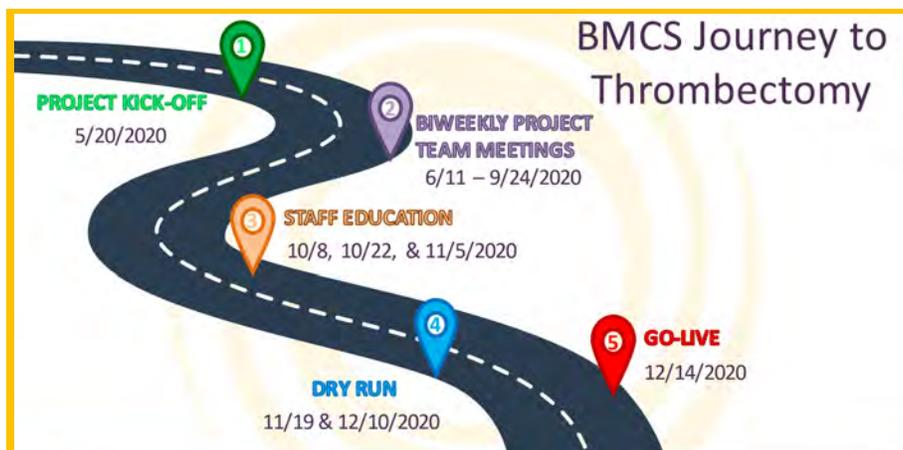
In parallel, our recruitment team worked hand-in-hand with the project team at Baptist Medical Center South to identify a neuro-interventionalist, who will join the organization in August 2021. While the search was in progress, Corazon placed an Interim Stroke Program Manager to ensure program momentum and operational focus while the search for a permanent hire for this pivotal program leadership role was underway. Within 5 months, a Stroke Program Manager was hired with orientation support provided by Corazon.



**Baptist Medical Center South Thrombectomy Team**

## Baptist Medical Center South's Journey:

Once a neuro-interventionalist was hired, BMCS contracted Corazon to provide implementation support for their new Thrombectomy program. The Project kicked off in May 2020 and quickly led to their first thrombectomy case in December. Their volume of 26 cases in the first few months exceeded their originally projected first year volume of 24.



## Through this Comprehensive Project, Corazon worked with the Baptist Team to:

- Create the necessary **policies and procedures** for neuro-intervention
- Redesign the Acute ED and Inpatient Stroke Algorithms to **incorporate best practice changes** for tPA administration and a parallel track for large vessel occlusion identification and treatment with mechanical thrombectomy
- Build the necessary **ordersets and documentation templates** for neuro-intervention and post procedural care
- **Bring physicians to the table** as active participants in clinical program development
- Develop and deliver formal **neuro-intervention education** for ED, ICU, and Acute Care nursing staff and local EMS
- Design a **marketing and outreach plan** to educate outlying facilities about the endovascular capabilities newly available
- Practice **new procedures and workflows** using "Dry Run" scenarios for new program preparedness

“Baptist Health is excited to be able to offer much-needed thrombectomy services to our community. The need in our area was great, as evidenced by our program far exceeding our first-year case volume estimates in just a few months’ time. Corazon’s assistance with this stroke program expansion was invaluable, and their expertise and advice helped to keep the project on task, on time, and on budget. Momentum never slowed, so we were able to implement this lifesaving offering much faster than if we took on the project alone. We are eager to continue our expansion efforts in neurosciences based on the strong foundation Corazon has helped us to develop.

-Mark Sexton, Neuroscience Service Line Director