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Dear Commissioner,

We have an excellent opportunity to ensure that the needs of stroke patients are met consistently around the country, and in particular in England through local commissioning. However, there are also risks that new organisations will feel overwhelmed with the complexity of the processes involved. Stroke should be straightforward and the resources in this pack should provide all you need to ensure that your services provide the highest quality evidence based care and to enable you to monitor how your providers are performing. The National Clinical Guideline for Stroke published in 2012 has a specific chapter for commissioners. The Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme can provide you with up to date data covering all the items within the CCG Indicator set, NICE Quality Standards and much else besides. It is the single source of data that commissioners, providers, patients and the public can use to evaluate services.

You may also be interested in the RCP's well-developed peer review scheme that is available to any organisation that would like advice to help develop its stroke services. A multi-professional team of senior stroke experts are available to provide advice on any aspect of the service. Further details on the scheme can be found in this pack.

We welcome your comments on the resources in this portfolio and would very much appreciate if you could return the enclosed evaluation form by post or email. Please do get in touch if you need more information stroke@rcplondon.ac.uk.

Yours faithfully,

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