Clinical Protocol

A **clinical [protocol](#)** is a structured, evidence-based plan that outlines the **procedures, steps, and decision-making criteria** for diagnosing, managing, or treating a specific medical condition.

🧩 Key Features

- **Standardized**: Ensures consistency across clinicians and departments.
- **Evidence-based**: Based on current clinical guidelines or studies.
- **Step-by-step**: Defines clear diagnostic or therapeutic actions.
- **Contextualized**: Adapted to the resources and workflow of the clinical setting.

🎯 Purposes

- Reduce variability in patient care.
- Improve safety, outcomes, and efficiency.
- Support onboarding and clinical training.
- Serve as a reference in high-risk or urgent situations.

🏥 Examples

- **Stroke protocol**: IV thrombolysis within 4.5 hours + thrombectomy criteria.
- **DVT prophylaxis**: Enoxaparin dosing post-surgery with timing.
- **Sepsis protocol**: Early antibiotics, fluid resuscitation, and lactate targets.
- **Perioperative steroids**: Tapering regimens for autoimmune patients.

📝 Notes

- Clinical protocols are often integrated into **electronic health records (EHRs)**.
- They differ from **clinical guidelines**, which are broader and more flexible.
- Protocols are usually developed by **institutional committees** or expert panels.

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Last update: **2025/06/14 09:15**