Establishing and implementing standardized protocols and order sets can be a time-consuming and resource-intensive process. Disease-specific protocols have been shown to improve ICU care, but there is limited information on the impact of such standardized protocols and order sets on the hospital length of stay in patients with non-traumatic ICH.

Standardized protocols and order sets were implemented in 2010 as part of the development of a Comprehensive Stroke Center and regional stroke network of 11 hospitals. Patients with non-traumatic ICH were identified based on in-patient hospital discharge ICD-9 codes from 2008 to 2011 and hospital length of stay data was collected. A total of 339 patients were hospitalized with non-traumatic ICH over the 4-year period. The average hospital length of stay for patients with non-traumatic ICH decreased from 8.7 days in 2008 to 7.0 days in 2011, a 19.5% reduction.

Use of Standardized Protocols and Order Sets at a Comprehensive Stroke Center is associated with a significant decrease in the average hospital length of stay for patients with non-traumatic ICH.