

CINCINNATI STROKE SCALE

- 1) **Facial droop:** Have patient show teeth or smile
Abnormal: One side does not move as the other
- 2) **Arm drift:** Have patient close eyes and hold arms out for 10 seconds with palms up
Abnormal: One arm does not move or drifts down
- 3) **Abnormal speech:** Have patient say “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks”
Abnormal: Patient slurs words, uses wrong words, or is unable to speak

Relative Criteria for Transport to a Primary Stroke Center (PSC)

Patients with a negative or unattainable CSS may be transported to a PSC if acute stroke ≤ 6 hours in duration is suspected by the Base Station based on any of the following:

- Sudden and persistent alteration of consciousness
- Sudden onset severe headache (especially in association with vomiting +/- systolic BP >200)
- Severe and sudden loss of balance

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