SUSPECTED ACUTE STROKE - BLS

RMC

Request ALS assistance

Determine time of onset of stroke symptoms
Estimate time when patient was last seen as normal

Assess for physical signs of stroke
Perform Cincinnati Stroke Scale

Check Blood Sugar

BS ≤ 60

Glucopaste
1 tube PO if intact gag reflex

BS > 60

Document time of onset and signs of stroke,
include in radio report

Patients with stroke symptoms ≤ 24 hours in
duration or unknown time of last known normal and
an abnormality in one or more items of the Cincinnati
Stroke Scale (CSS) should be transported to the
closest stroke center

Patients may also be transported to the closest
stroke center if directed by the Base Station

See “Transport of Patients with Suspected Acute
Stroke” Policy

BLS Non-Transport BLS Ambulance

Prepare for transport and contact
Medical Control as appropriate

Transport and contact Medical
Control as appropriate

Cincinnati Stroke Scale (CSS) (for responsive patient):

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

Positive CSS = One or more of the above items are abnormal