



**REGION 11
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM
POLICY**

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| Title: Stroke Patient Destination |
| Section: Transportation |
| Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium |
| Effective: November 6, 2024 |

STROKE PATIENT DESTINATION

I. PURPOSE

- A. Identify patients with symptoms of stroke based on a stroke screening scale (CPSS) and stroke severity scale (3I-SS).
- B. Transport patients to a Primary Stroke Center (PSC), Thrombectomy Stroke Center (TSC), or Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) based on last known well time and stroke severity.

II. STROKE CENTERS

- A. Primary Stroke Center (PSC): Ability to care for patients with acute ischemic stroke with intravenous thrombolytic therapy and inpatient care.
- B. Thrombectomy Stroke Centers (TSC): Ability to concurrently provide endovascular therapy (EVT) for treatment of acute ischemic stroke associated large vessel occlusions including neurointerventional team, neurointensive care unit, advanced neuroimaging, and the ability to collect and review data on reperfusion therapy. There are three designations that hospital accrediting bodies may use under the Illinois state law.
 - 1. Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center
 - 2. Thrombectomy Ready Stroke Center
 - 3. Primary Plus Stroke Center
- C. Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC): Ability to provide complex treatments of other cerebrovascular disease including endovascular therapy.

III. STROKE SCALES

A. Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS) - Stroke Screening

Facial Droop - Have patient show teeth or smile

- Normal = Both sides of the face move equally
- Abnormal = One side of the face does not move at all

Arm Drift - Have patient close eyes and hold arms out for 10 seconds with palms up

- Normal = Both arms move equally or not at all
- Abnormal = One arm drifts compared to the other

Speech - Have patient say, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks"

- Normal = Patient uses correct words with no slurring
- Abnormal = Slurred or inappropriate words or mute



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B. 3-Item Stroke Scale (3I-SS) - Stroke Severity

The 3I-SS is scored 0-6. Assign a score from 0 to 2 for each of the three parts of the assessment. Add each section for the total score.

Level of Consciousness (AVPU)

0 = Alert

1 = Arousable to voice only

2 = Arousable to noxious stimuli only, or unresponsive

Gaze Preference

0 = Normal eye movements

1 = Prefers to look to one side, but can move eyes to both sides

2 = Eyes are fixed in one direction

Motor Function

0 = Normal strength in arms and legs

1 = Can lift arm or leg, but cannot hold arm/leg up for 10 seconds

2 = None or minimal movement of arm or leg

IV. STROKE DESTINATION CRITERIA

- A. Patients with stroke symptoms are screened with the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS).
- B. Patients with an abnormal CPSS or a suspected stroke will be assessed for stroke severity with the 3 Item Stroke Scale (3I-SS).
- C. Patients with a 3I-SS score of 4 or more and have a last known well time of less than 24 hours OR an unknown last known well time shall be transported to the closest Thrombectomy Stroke Center (TSC) or Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC)
- D. Patients with a 3I-SS score of 3 or less shall be transported to the closest stroke center.
- E. Patients with a 3I-SS score of 4 or more and a last known well time greater than 24 hours shall be transported to the closest stroke center.

V. HOSPITAL COMMUNICATION

- A. Online Medical Control contact is required for all suspected stroke patients.
- B. Document time of hospital notification.



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STROKE CENTERS

PRIMARY STROKE CENTERS (PSC)

Advocate Trinity Hospital
Ascension Saint Francis Hospital
Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital, Chicago
Ascension Saints Mary & Elizabeth Medical Center - St. Mary Campus
Community First Medical Center
Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital
Holy Cross Hospital
Humboldt Park Health
Insight Hospital & Medical Center
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
Loyola MacNeal Hospital
Mount Sinai Hospital
OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center
Saint Anthony Hospital
Weiss Memorial Hospital
West Suburban Medical Center

THROMBECTOMY STROKE CENTERS (TSC)

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS (CSC)

Advocate Christ Medical Center
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
Ascension Resurrection Medical Center
Loyola University Medical Center
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Rush University Medical Center
UChicago Medicine
UI Health

Updated: 12/16/22, 7/31/2023, 12/12/23; 8/5/24; 11/6/24