



<b>REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY</b>	Title: Stroke Patient Destination
	Section: Transportation
	Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
	Effective: December 6, 2023

## 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 or Comprehensive Stroke Center 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.
- B. Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC): Ability to concurrently meet the need of multiple, complex stroke patients with advanced imaging, thrombectomy, and neurosurgery.

### 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

#### 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



<b>REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY</b>

Title: Stroke Patient Destination
Section: Transportation
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: December 6, 2023

**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 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.



**REGION 11  
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM  
POLICY**

Title: Stroke Patient Destination
Section: Transportation
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: December 6, 2023

## **PRIMARY AND COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS**

### **PRIMARY STROKE CENTERS (PSC)**

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center  
Advocate Trinity Hospital  
Ascension Resurrection Medical Center  
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

### **COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS (CSC)**

Advocate Christ Medical Center  
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital  
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