



**REGION 11
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM
POLICY**

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



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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.



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PRIMARY AND COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS

PRIMARY STROKE CENTERS (PSC)

- Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
- 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

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