



REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM PROCEDURE	Title: Stroke Patient Assessment
	Section: Patient Assessment / Management
	Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
	EMS Level: BLS/ALS

STROKE PATIENT ASSESSMENT

Determine **last known well (LKW)**: The time at which the patient was last known to be without the signs and symptoms of the current stroke or at his/her baseline state of health.

Perform **Cincinnati Stroke Scale (CSS)**: One or more of the following are abnormal:

Facial Droop: Have patient show teeth or smile

Abnormal = One side does not move as the other

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

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

Abnormal = Patient slurs word, uses wrong words or is unable to speak

Perform **Finger to Nose Test (FTN)**: Have the patient touch their nose and then the provider's finger repeatedly with each hand. A normal exam is when the patient can smoothly touch their nose and the provider's finger.

Abnormal = Patient demonstrates dysmetria (unable to touch finger following a straight path) on either side or both

If abnormal or unobtainable CSS or FTN: Assess stroke severity with **3 Item Stroke Scale (3I-SS)**:

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

Stroke scale ≥ 4 and last known well ≤ 6 hours transport to Comprehensive Stroke Center

Stroke scale ≥ 4 and last known well > 6 hours but < 24 hours, transport to closest Stroke Center

Stroke scale ≤ 3 and last known well ≤ 24 hours transport to closest Stroke Center