



**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*

If abnormal or unobtainable CSS: 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

For 3I-SS of 4 or more and last known well less than 24 hours or unknown, transport to the closest Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) OR Thrombectomy Stroke Center (TSC)

For 3I-SS of 3 or less, transport to closest Stroke Center

For 3I-SS of 4 or more and last known well more than 24 hours, transport to the closest Stroke Center