



ADVOCATE ILLINOIS MASONIC MEDICAL CENTER
JOHN H. STROGER JR. HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY
NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER

DATE: August 4, 2026

TO: Region 11 EMS Providers
Region 11 EMS Participating Hospitals

FROM: **REGION 11 EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS CONSORTIUM**

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY FIRST MEDICAL CENTER PRIMARY STROKE CENTER STATUS**

Effective August 4, 2026, at 0700, Community First Medical Center is no longer a certified Primary Stroke Center.

As a result, Community First Medical Center has been removed from the Region 11 [Stroke Patient Destination Policy](#). Additionally, the Region 11 [Systems of Care Policy](#) has been updated due to this change in hospital designation. Please make sure that all Region 11 Base Station staff and EMS providers are aware of this system change and appropriately transport stroke patients to the closest most appropriate facility in accordance with regional policy.

Attached you will find the updated policies.

Please contact your Resource Hospital with any questions

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Enclosed: Updated Region 11 Stroke Patient Destination Policy – Effective August 4, 2026
Updated Region 11 Systems of Care Policy – Effective August 4, 2026

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REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY	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 Joseph Hospital - Chicago
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
Prime Healthcare Saint Francis Hospital
Prime Healthcare Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital
Saint Anthony Hospital

THROMBECTOMY STROKE CENTERS (TSC)

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS (CSC)

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

Updated: 8/4/26



REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY

Title: Systems of Care

Section: Transportation

Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium

Effective: December 17, 2025

SYSTEMS OF CARE

I. PURPOSE

- A. To define the Systems of Care for patients transported by EMS to hospitals participating in the Region 11 Chicago EMS Systems.
- B. To deliver the right resources to the right patient in the right place at the right time.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. System of Care: Regionalized care for a patient with a time-critical or specialty condition from EMS assessment to definitive care at a designated hospital facility.
- B. Designation: Recognition of a hospital facility to have the capability to provide specialty care services by a state or regional authority.
- C. Destination Criteria: Defined criteria for EMS to identify patients that should be directly transported to a designated hospital as part of a System of Care.

III. SYSTEMS OF CARE

- A. The established Systems of Care with specialty hospital designations for Region 11 are listed below. Refer to each individual policy for specific patient destination criteria.
 - 1. STEMI and Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) Patient Destination
 - a. STEMI Center
 - 2. Stroke Patient Destination
 - a. Primary Stroke Center (PSC)
 - b. Thrombectomy Stroke Center (TSC)
 - c. Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC)
 - 3. Trauma Patient Destination
 - a. Level 1 Trauma Center
 - b. Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center
 - 4. Burn Patient Destination
 - a. Burn Center
 - 5. Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) Patient Destination
 - a. VAD Center



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6. Perinatal (Obstetric/Neonatal) Patient Destination

- a. Level 3 Perinatal Hospital
- b. Level 2 Perinatal Hospital
- c. No obstetrical services (Level 0)

7. Pediatric Patient Destination

- a. Pediatric Critical Care Center (PCCC)
- b. Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics (EDAP)
- c. Emergency Department without pediatric designation

IV. OTHER PATIENT DESTINATION CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Patients that self-identify as veterans can be transported to a Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) per policy.
- B. Veteran patient transports are preferred for medical care coordination, but it is not a System of Care.

V. FACILITY RECOGNITION

- A. IDPH Administrative Code and relevant Subparts.
- B. Additional accrediting organizations.

VI. HOSPITAL COMMUNICATION

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

VII. DOCUMENTATION

- A. Documentation should include "Systems of Care" as a reason for the destination.
- B. The hospital designation or capability should be documented as the reason for transport to that facility.

REGION 11 EMS SYSTEMS OF CARE - HOSPITAL DESIGNATIONS

Hospital	Burn	Pediatrics	Perinatal (Obstetric & Neonatal)	STEMI & Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA)	Stroke	Trauma	Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)
Advocate Christ Medical Center		PCCC	Level 3	STEMI Center	CSC	Level 1	VAD Center
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center		EDAP	Level 3	STEMI Center	TSC	Level 1	
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital		PCCC	Level 3	STEMI Center	CSC	Level 1	
Advocate Trinity Hospital			Level 2	STEMI Center	PSC		
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago		PCCC	NO OB SERVICES			Level 1 Pediatric	
Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital - Chicago		EDAP	Level 3	STEMI Center	PSC		
Community First Medical Center			NO OB SERVICES	STEMI Center			
Edward Hines, Jr. Veterans Affairs Hospital			NO OB SERVICES				
Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital		EDAP	Level 2	STEMI Center	PSC		
Holy Cross Hospital			NO OB SERVICES		PSC		
Humboldt Park Health			Level 2	STEMI Center	PSC		
Insight Hospital & Medical Center			NO OB SERVICES		PSC		
Jackson Park Hospital & Medical Center			NO OB SERVICES				
Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center			NO OB SERVICES				
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County	Burn Capable	EDAP	Level 3	STEMI Center	PSC	Level 1 Level 1 Pediatric	
Loretto Hospital			NO OB SERVICES				
Loyola MacNeal Hospital		EDAP	Level 2	STEMI Center	PSC		
Loyola University Medical Center	Burn Center	PCCC	Level 3	STEMI Center	CSC	Level 1	VAD Center
Mount Sinai Hospital		EDAP	Level 3	STEMI Center	PSC	Level 1	
Northwestern Memorial Hospital		EDAP	Level 3	STEMI Center	CSC	Level 1	VAD Center
OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center		EDAP	Level 2	STEMI Center	PSC		
Prime Healthcare Resurrection Medical Center			Level 2	STEMI Center	CSC		
Prime Healthcare Saint Francis Hospital		EDAP	NO OB SERVICES	STEMI Center	PSC	Level 1	
Prime Healthcare Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital		EDAP	Level 2	STEMI Center	PSC		
Provident Hospital of Cook County			NO OB SERVICES				
Roseland Community Hospital			Level 2				
Rush University Medical Center		PCCC	Level 3	STEMI Center	CSC		VAD Center
Saint Anthony Hospital		EDAP	Level 2		PSC		
South Shore Hospital			NO OB SERVICES				
St. Bernard Hospital & Health Care Center			NO OB SERVICES				
Thorek Memorial Hospital			NO OB SERVICES				
UChicago Medicine	Burn Center		Level 3	STEMI Center	CSC	Level 1	VAD Center
UChicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital		PCCC	Level 3			Level I Pediatric	
UI Health		PCCC	Level 3	STEMI Center	CSC		