

**SUBJECT: Destination for ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patients**

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- I. Authority and Reference (incorporated herein by references)
  - A. Division 2.5 of Health and Safety Code
  - B. California code of Regulations, Title 22
  - C. North Coast EMS Policies and Procedures
  
- II. Purpose: To define the circumstance in which patients may be directly transported to a ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) Receiving Center (SRC) without prior base hospital authorization.
  
- III. Policy:
  - A. Only North Coast EMS approved ALS provider agencies that utilize 12-lead EKGs with trained paramedics may initiate direct transport of STEMI patients without base hospital authorization.
  - B. All paramedics must complete at least eight (8) hours of training on the use and interpretation of 12-lead ECG monitors pursuant to ALS Policy 6511a – 12 Lead EKG and have documentation of training on record.
  - C. Only patients determined by both symptoms (pursuant to ALS Policy 6511a –12 Lead EKG) and a positive 12-lead EKG STEMI reading by a trained paramedic may be transported directly to a SRC without prior base hospital authorization.
  - D. STEMI Patient Destination by County:
    1. In Del Norte County, paramedic identified STEMI patients shall be transported to the closest emergency department that shall consider utilization of thrombolytics as needed, transferring the patient to the closest SRC as soon as possible. A STEMI patient located closer to a designated SRC shall be transported to the SRC.
    2. In Humboldt County, paramedic identified STEMI patients shall be transported to the closest LEMSA designated SRC.
    3. In Lake County, paramedic identified STEMI patients shall be transported directly to the closest local EMS agency (LEMSA) designated SRC located outside of Lake County **ONLY** when transport to that facility will not increase the patient's total ground and/or air transport time to hospital arrival by more than **60 minutes**.
  - E. STEMI patients received by a non-SRC shall be transferred to the closest SRC as soon as possible. Administration of thrombolytics shall be considered prior to transfer, particularly when transfer of a STEMI patient to a SRC may be delayed due to uncertainty as to the availability or estimated time of arrival (ETA) of air or ground transport, or marginal or poor weather.
  
- IV. North Coast EMS approval or designation of STEMI Receiving Centers (SRC's):
  - A. North Coast EMS approved SRC's are those facilities that have been designated by North Coast EMS pursuant to Policy 2215 – SRC Designation Policy or have been designated by the county or regional LEMSA within which the SRC is located.
  - B. North Coast EMS designated SRC's shall enter into a North Coast EMS approved SRC contract and pay associated JPA approved fees.

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V. Procedure:

- A. Prehospital patients suffering from chest pain or suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) (see Policy 6511a) shall receive prompt 12-lead EKG analysis by a trained paramedic. For patients suffering from chest pain or suspected ACS from a location near a SRC, or in Del Norte County, from a location near a receiving hospital, performance of the field 12-lead EKG may be withheld by joint determination of base hospital and ALS provider provided the receiving hospital is prepared to immediately perform a 12-lead ECG upon ED arrival of the patient.
- B. When 12-lead interpretation confirms the presence of a STEMI, transport to the nearest SRC or hospital as indicated in III.C. above.
- C. STEMI patients received by a non-SRC shall be transferred to the closest SRC as soon as possible. Administration of thrombolytics shall be considered prior to transfer, particularly when the transfer of STEMI patients from a non-SRC shall be transported to the closest SRC. Should delays arise during transport preparations or transfer of care to the air transport provider, or should the projected total additional transport time necessary to reach a SRC exceed **60 minutes**, the patient shall immediately be transported to the nearest appropriate hospital and utilization of thrombolytics shall be considered by that facility.
- D. Hospital Notification:
  - 1. In Del Norte and Lake Counties, a paramedic who identifies a STEMI patient in the field shall notify the closest ED as soon as possible of pending STEMI patient arrival.
  - 2. In Humboldt County, a paramedic who identifies a STEMI patient in the field shall notify the closest designated SRC located within Humboldt County as soon as possible of pending STEMI patient arrival.

VI. ECG Transmission: North Coast EMS encourages but does not require 12-lead ECG transmission. The base hospital and ALS provider agency shall jointly determine whether or not and, if so, how 12-lead EKGs are transmitted to the receiving hospital. 12-lead EKG transmission is required in Humboldt County as determined by the SRC and ALS providers.

VII. Documentation: Paramedics who identify a patient with a chest pain suspicious of cardiac origin and/or a suspected STEMI will indicate whether a 12-lead EKG was preformed in the "Conditions" section of the ImageTrend.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*3/3/16*

Approved as to Form: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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