

SUBJECT: Destination for ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patients

- 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
 - A. To define the circumstances where under patients may be directly transported to a hospital especially equipped to treat ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) without prior base hospital authorization.

- III. Policy
 - A. Only North Coast EMS approved ALS provider agencies may initiate the direct transport of STEMI patients to a STEMI receiving facility without prior base hospital authorization.
 - B. Only patients determined by both symptoms (including but not limited to chest pain, shortness of breath, diaphoresis, etc. See VII. 2. below) and via 12-lead EKG to be candidates for STEMI intervention may be transported directly to a STEMI receiving facility without prior base hospital authorization.
 - C. Patients may only be transported directly to a STEMI receiving facility when transport to that facility will not increase the patient's total ground and/or air transport to hospital time by more than **60 minutes**.
 - D. When patient transport to a STEMI receiving center relies on patient transfer to a air medical transport agency, **uncertainty** as to the availability or estimated time of arrival ETA of air transport, particularly in regards to marginal or poor weather, **should preclude** that **air transport**. When transport time uncertainty exists, regardless of 12-lead EKG reading, all patients should be transported to the closest appropriate facility.

- IV. North Coast EMS approval of STEMI centers.
 - A. North Coast EMS approved STEMI centers are those facilities that have received the approval either of the North Coast EMS Medical Director **or** the Medical Director of the Local EMS Agency for the county or region in which that STEMI center is located.
 - B. Hospitals seeking North Coast EMS agency approval as a STEMI center should provide documentation demonstrating that that facility meets or exceeds a widely recognized State or National standard for STEMI centers. The North Coast EMS Medical Director will determine, after consultation with North Coast EMS regional participants and appropriate other medical specialists, whether that hospital meets the above noted standard. If the North Coast EMS Medical director determines that the hospital has not met the standard, the North Coast EMS Medical Director will, within 60 days of the hospital's

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submission of the above noted documentation, describe additional measures the hospital must undertake to attain approval.

- C. The North Coast EMS medical director, may probate, suspend or revoke North Coast EMS STEMI center approval from any hospital failing to maintain a widely recognized State or National standard for STEMI centers. (These standards may evolve over time.)
 - D. North Coast EMS will charge a STEMI center destination fee and ongoing maintenance fee as determined by the Governing Board.
- V. North Coast EMS approval of ALS provider agencies for direct STEMI transport.
- A. Only ALS provider agencies employing 12-lead EKGs may be approved as North Coast EMS STEMI approved ALS provider agencies.
 - B. Prior to receiving North Coast EMS STEMI transport approval, ALS provider must document that all that ALS provider agency's paramedic personnel have received adequate training in the use and interpretation of the provider agency's 12-lead EKG monitors. Documentation must be endorsed by the Prehospital Care Medical Director of the Base Hospital (or Modified Base Hospital) to which that provider has been assigned.
 - C. All paramedics must complete at least 8 hours of training on the use and interpretation of 12-lead EKG monitors.
 - D. The North Coast EMS Medical Director, may probate, suspend or revoke North Coast EMS STEMI transport approval of any ALS provider agency.
- VI. Procedure
- A. Patients suffering from chest pain or suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome (ASC) (See VII. 2. below) should receive prompt 12-lead analysis.
 - B. When 12-lead interpretation confirms the presence of a STEMI, transport to the nearest STEMI center should be arranged or initiated, provided that total transport time to that STEMI center will not exceed transport time to the nearest appropriate (though non-STEMI center) hospital by more than **60 minutes.**
 - C. Should possible 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 STEMI center exceed **60 minutes**, the patient should immediately be transported to the nearest appropriate (though non-STEMI center) hospital.
- VII. Documenting the ALS provider initiated direct transport of patients to STEMI centers.
- A. The Patient Care Report (PCR) should include the following:
 - 1. Use of the "STEMI" option in the "EKG" or "ECG" pick list.

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2. A description of the signs and symptoms indicating that the patient was suffering from a suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome (ASC), including but not limited to:
 - a) Substernal chest pain
 - b) Discomfort or tightness radiating to the jaw, left shoulder or arm
 - c) Nausea
 - d) Diaphoresis
 - e) Dyspnea
 - f) Anxiety
 - g) Syncope/dizziness
 - h) Known treatment for ACS
3. Significant vital signs and physical findings.
4. Interpretation of the 12-lead EKG (leads, amount of ST elevation in millimeters, “confidence” in the 12-lead assessment).
5. Attach a copy of the EKG to the base (modified) Base hospital copy and the provider copy of the PCR.
6. If air transport is requested, a) the time of the request, b) the ETA provided by the air transport, c) the arrival time of the air transport, d) the “lift off” time of the air transport.

VIII. North Coast EMS retrospective evaluation of STEMI transports

- A. **STEMI approved ALS provider agencies must alert North Coast EMS via a faxed copy of the PCR and the accompanying 12-lead rhythm strip each time a transport to a STEMI center has been initiated without prior (modified) Base Hospital approval.**
- B. In conjunction with associated LEMSAs, hospitals and ground and air transport providers, North Coast EMS will review each STEMI transport for appropriateness and timeliness.

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Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 