



**Emergency Medical Services District**

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September 30, 2019

David Duncan, MD  
Director  
California Emergency Medical Services Authority  
10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400  
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

Dear Dr. Duncan,

Attached please find the 2019 Alameda County EMS Stroke Critical Care System Plan (Plan). This Plan depicts the robust Stroke System of Care that began in 2008 with three facilities designated as EMS Primary Stroke Receiving Centers (PSRC). Now we have eight PSRCs which are geographically spread and offer broad coverage for our communities. We are proud to share the work we have been doing through this Plan.

Thank you in advance for your review of this Plan. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauri McFadden".

Lauri McFadden  
Director, Emergency Medical Services

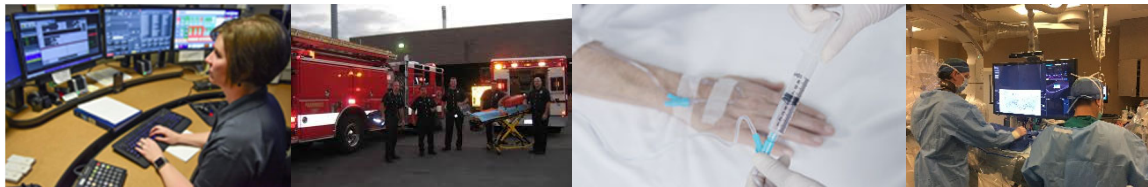
Attachment

cc: Colleen Chawla, HCSA Director  
Karl Sporer, EMS Medical Director  
William McClurg, EMS Deputy Director

**ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**



**2019  
STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM  
PLAN**



**September 2019**

ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

**DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<p>§ 100270.200. Acute Stroke. Ready Hospital</p>	<p>A hospital able to provide the minimum level of critical care services for stroke patients in the emergency department, and are paired with one or more hospitals with a higher level of stroke services.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p>AHS</p>	<p>Acute Hemorrhagic Stroke</p>
<p>AIS</p>	<p>Acute Ischemic Stroke</p>
<p>ALCO</p>	<p>Alameda County</p>
<p>BHDE</p>	<p>Bidirectional Healthcare Data Exchange</p>
<p>§ 100270.201. Board-certified</p>	<p>A physician who has fulfilled all the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements in a specialty field of practice, and has been awarded a certification by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved program.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107 and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p>§ 100270.202. Board-eligible</p>	<p>A physician who has applied to a specialty board examination, has completed the requirements and is approved to take the examination by ABMS. Board certification must be obtained within the allowed time by ABMS from the first appointment.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>

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CPSS	Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale
<b>§ 100270.204. Clinical Stroke Team</b>	<p>A team of healthcare professionals who provide care for the stroke patient and may include, but is not limited to, neurologists, neurointerventionalists, neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, emergency medicine physicians, registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, and technologists.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<b>§ 100270.203. Comprehensive Stroke Center</b>	<p>A hospital with specific abilities to receive, diagnose, and treat all stroke cases and provide the highest level of care for stroke patients.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>
CT	Computed Tomography
Dx	Diagnosis
ED	Emergency Department
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
<b>§ 100270.205. Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA)</b>	<p>The department in California that is responsible for the coordination and the integration of all state activities concerning emergency medical services.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Section 1797.107 Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.54, 1797.100, and 1797.103, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<b>§ 100270.206. Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA)</b>	<p>The agency, department, or office having primary responsibility for administration of emergency medical services in a county and is designated pursuant Health and Safety Code section 1797.200.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94 and 1797.200, Health and Safety Code.</p>

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HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HITECH	Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act
IA	Intra-arterial
IR	Interventional Radiology
JC	Joint Commission
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
<b>§ 100270.207. Primary Stroke Center</b>	<p>A hospital that treats acute stroke patients, and identifies patients who may benefit from transfer to a higher level of care when clinically warranted.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<b>§ 100270.208. Protocol</b>	<p>A predetermined, written medical care guideline, which may include standing orders.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<b>PSRC</b>	<p>Primary Stroke Receiving Center designation by Alameda County for patients transported via the 9-1-1 system with suspected possible stroke who may benefit by rapid assessment and timely treatment with fibrinolytic if warranted.</p>
<b>§ 100270.209. Quality Improvement (QI)</b>	<p>Methods of evaluation that are composed of a structure, process, and outcome evaluations which focus on improvement efforts to identify causes of problems, intervene to reduce or eliminate these causes, and take steps to correct the process and recognize excellence in performance and delivery of care.</p>

ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

	<p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176 and 1798.150 Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.174, 1797.202, 1797.204, 1797.220 and 1798.175, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.210. Stroke</b></p>	<p>A condition of impaired blood flow to a patient’s brain resulting in brain dysfunction, most commonly through vascular occlusion or hemorrhage.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.211. Stroke Call Roster</b></p>	<p>A schedule of licensed health professionals available twenty- four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week for the care of stroke patients.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.212. Stroke Care</b></p>	<p>Emergency transport, triage, diagnostic evaluation, acute intervention and other acute care services for stroke patients that potentially require immediate medical or surgical intervention treatment, and may include education, primary prevention, acute intervention, acute and subacute management, prevention of complications, secondary stroke prevention, and rehabilitative services.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>100270.213. Stroke Critical Care System</b></p>	<p>A subspecialty care component of the EMS system developed by a local EMS agency. This critical care system links prehospital and hospital care to deliver optimal treatment to the population of stroke patients.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.214. Stroke Medical Director</b></p>	<p>A board-certified physician in neurology or neurosurgery or another board with sufficient experience and expertise dealing with cerebrovascular disease as determined by the hospital credentialing committee that is responsible for the stroke service, performance</p>

ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

	<p>improvement, and patient safety programs related to a stroke critical care system.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.215. Stroke Program Manager</b></p>	<p>A registered nurse or qualified individual designated by the hospital with the responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the care of stroke patients and the coordination of performance improvement and patient safety programs for the stroke center in conjunction with the stroke medical director.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.216. Stroke Program</b></p>	<p>An organizational component of the hospital specializing in the care of stroke patients.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.217. Stroke Team</b></p>	<p>The personnel, support personnel, and administrative staff that function together as part of the hospital's stroke program.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p><b>§ 100270.218. Telehealth</b></p>	<p>The mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient's health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site.</p> <p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code. California Business and Professions Code Sec. 2290.5</p>

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<p>§ 100270.219. Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center</p>	<p>A primary stroke center with the ability to perform mechanical thrombectomy for the ischemic stroke patient when clinically warranted.  Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103, and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p>TIA</p>	<p>Transient Ischemic Accident</p>
<p>tpA</p>	<p>Tissue Plasminogen Activator</p>

This document is the Stroke Critical Care System Plan intended for submission to the EMS Authority for approval and in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 22. Social Security Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Chapter 7.2 Stroke Critical Care System: ARTICLE 2. LOCAL EMS AGENCY STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS, § 100270.220. Stroke Critical Care System Plan.

NOTE: § 100270.220. Stroke Critical Care System Plan. (a) The local EMS agency may develop and implement a stroke critical care system. (b) The local EMS agency implementing a stroke critical care system shall have a Stroke Critical Care System Plan approved by the EMS Authority prior to implementation. (c) The Stroke Critical Care System Plan submitted to the EMS Authority shall include, at a minimum, all of the following components:

- (1) The names and titles of the local EMS agency personnel who have a role in a stroke critical care system.
  - (2) The list of stroke designated facilities with the agreement expiration dates.
  - (3) A description or a copy of the local EMS agency's stroke patient identification and destination policies.
  - (4) A description or a copy of the method of field communication to the receiving hospital-specific to stroke patients, designed to expedite time-sensitive treatment on arrival.
  - (5) A description or a copy of the policy that facilitates the inter-facility transfer of stroke patients.
  - (6) A description of the method of data collection from the EMS providers and designated stroke hospitals to the local EMS agency and the EMS Authority.
  - (7) A policy or description of how the Local EMS agency integrates a receiving center in a neighboring jurisdiction.
  - (8) A description of the integration of stroke into an existing quality improvement committee or a description of any stroke-specific quality improvement committee.
  - (9) A description of programs to conduct or promote public education specific to stroke.
- (d) The EMS Authority shall, within 30 days of receiving a request for approval, notify the requesting local EMS agency in writing of approval or disapproval of its Stroke Critical Care System Plan. If the Stroke Critical Care System Plan is disapproved, the response shall include the reason(s) for the disapproval and any required corrective action items.



## ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

(e) The local EMS agency shall provide an amended plan to the EMS Authority within 60 days of receipt of the disapproval letter.

(f) The local EMS agency currently operating a stroke critical care system implemented before the effective date of these regulations, shall submit to the EMS Authority a Stroke Critical Care System Plan as an addendum to its next annual EMS plan update, or within 180 days of the effective date of these regulations, whichever comes first.

(g) Any stroke center designated by the local EMS agency before implementation of these regulations may continue to operate. Before re-designation by the local EMS agency at the next regular interval, stroke centers shall be re-evaluated to meet the criteria established in these regulations.

(h) No health care facility shall advertise in any manner or otherwise hold itself out to be affiliated with a stroke critical care system or a stroke center unless they have been designated by the local EMS agency, in accordance with this chapter.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.105, 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.105, 1797.173, 1797.176, 1797.220, 1797.250, 1798.170, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

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## **STROKE SYSTEM OF CARE SUMMARY**

### **Section 1. Introduction/Background/MOU**

Alameda County EMS began establishing a countywide Stroke System of Care in 2008 by designating three hospitals as EMS Primary Stroke receiving Centers that were already certified, or were in process with the Joint Commission to obtain Primary Stroke Center status. ALCO paramedics recognizing a possible stroke patient using the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale transport to the most geographically desirable/ closest facility and or the hospital of the patient's prior care. In 2011, three more receiving hospitals achieved JC certification within the county and became PSRCs and by 2013, two more centers had designation. Over the past five years, one hospital let their JC certification expire without renewal. With one newly designated center Alameda County has eight of twelve adult receiving hospitals as recognized EMS Primary Stroke Receiving Centers.

The first MOUs executed between ALCO EMS and the eight designated PSRCs occurred in 2013. Active MOUs are in place with all JC approved Primary Stroke Centers as a designation requirement for a facility to receive EMS suspected stroke patients.

The initial purpose of developing a Stroke System was to ensure preparation, timely response, and definitive care for people that present with suspected stroke in Alameda County. A decade later, the goal and objectives remain unchanged. The rapidly evolving science surrounding stroke treatment strategies and time of symptom onset has had significant impact regarding inclusion for treatment, as these advancements have extended the window of opportunity for many. The many changes influencing the health care delivery systems in the United States over the years have not had a negative impact on the Stroke System within the county. The fact is that the desire of hospitals and geographic needs of the community have supported the increase for more Stroke Receiving Centers over the past ten years. The fundamental components of the Stroke system design remain intact with consistent continuity and continue to improve performance and meet the needs of the residents and visitors to Alameda County.

### **Section 2. ALCO EMS Design/Administration**

Alameda County is approximately 739 square miles of land and 82 of water, located in the center of the San Francisco Bay Area, with a diverse demographic and socioeconomic population of 1.6 million. The EMS system design and configuration consists of a countywide Advanced Life Support (ALS) model for first responders and transport: five First Responder ALS (FRALS) Fire Departments, four ALS Transport Fire Departments with FRALS, one private ALS transport provider agency and one Basic Life Support (BLS) First responder Fire Department.

Within the county, currently thirteen hospitals exist as emergency receiving centers for ambulance transport: 12 adult and 1 pediatric. Of the twelve adult hospitals, eight are LEMSA designated Primary Stroke Receiving Centers with three being thrombectomy-capable.

The EMS Agency is responsible for oversight of the countywide Stroke System of Care including operations, performance, quality improvement, administration and compliance monitoring of designated PSRC MOUs. ALCO EMS leadership consists of the Director – Lauri McFadden, Deputy Director – William McClurg, Medical Director – Karl Sporer MD and EMS Coordinator (Specialty Systems of Care) – Michael Jacobs, Paramedic.

### **Section 3. ALCO EMS Designated Primary Stroke Receiving Centers/MOU**

ALCO EMS currently has eight designated Primary Stroke Receiving Centers (PSRC), all have JC certification as Primary Stroke Centers. Seven have active written agreements (MOUs), all expiring 12/31/2019. MOU renewals will take effect 1/1/2020 and include the most recently designated PSRC.

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- Alameda Health System Alameda Hospital-(Alameda) MOU Expiration-12/31/2019
- Alta Bates Summit Medical Center-(Oakland) MOU Expiration-12/31/2019
- Kaiser Permanente-(Fremont) MOU Expiration-12/31/2019
- Kaiser Permanente-(Oakland) MOU Expiration-12/31/2019
- Kaiser Permanente-(San Leandro) MOU Expiration-12/31/2019
- St. Rose Hospital-(Hayward) MOU Expiration-12/31/2019
- Stanford Health Care Valley Care Medical Center-(Pleasanton) NEW as of September 2019
- Washington Hospital Health System-(Fremont) MOU Expiration-12/31/2019

**Section 4. EMS Stroke Identification and Destination Policy/Protocol**

The identification of a suspected Stroke starts in Dispatch: below are both Medical Priority Dispatch Card 28 for CVA/TIA and ALCO EMS Field Assessment/Treatment Protocol for suspected Stroke. These decision pathways and protocols address and comply with § 100270.222. EMS Personnel and Early Recognition.

1. Is s/he **completely alert** (responding appropriately)?
2. Is s/he **breathing normally**?
3. **(No STROKE symptoms mentioned yet)**  
Tell me **why** you think it's a **STROKE**.  
  - Sudden **speech** problems
  - Sudden **weakness** or **numbness** (one side)
  - Sudden **paralysis** or **facial droop** (one side)
  - Sudden **loss of balance** or **coordination**
  - Sudden **vision** problems
  - Sudden onset of **severe headache**
- \* **Start the Stroke Diagnostic now (use the pullout card).** →
4. Exactly **what time** did these symptoms (problem) **start**?  
 a. **(Unknown)** When was the **last time** s/he was **seen to be normal**?
5. Has s/he ever had a **STROKE** before?

a. I'm sending the **paramedics** (ambulance) to help you now. **Stay on the line** and I'll tell you **exactly** what to do next.

\* Provide hospital staff with the Stroke Diagnostic Tool results, the **symptom onset time**, and the **name and phone number** of any person(s) who witnessed the onset of STROKE symptoms.

DLS \* Link to 📞 X-1 unless: ↩

Unconscious ————— 👁 **NABC-1**

INEFFECTIVE BREATHING and Not alert ————— 👁 **NABC-1**

Not alert and snoring ————— 👁 **NABC-1**

LEVELS	#	DETERMINANT DESCRIPTORS	➔ SEE ADDITIONAL INFO	CODES	RESPONSES	MODES
<b>C</b>	1	Not alert		28-C-1		
	2	Abnormal breathing		28-C-2		
	3	Sudden <b>speech</b> problems		28-C-3		
	4	Sudden <b>weakness</b> or <b>numbness</b> (one side)		28-C-4		
	5	Sudden <b>paralysis</b> or <b>facial droop</b> (one side)		28-C-5		
	6	Sudden <b>loss of balance</b> or <b>coordination</b>		28-C-6		
	7	Sudden <b>vision</b> problems		28-C-7		
	8	Sudden onset of <b>severe headache</b>		28-C-8		
	9	<b>STROKE</b> history		28-C-9		
	10	<b>TIA</b> (mini-stroke) history		28-C-10		
	11	Breathing <b>normally</b> ≥ 35		28-C-11		
	12	<b>Unknown</b> status/Other codes not applicable		28-C-12		
<b>A</b>	1	Breathing <b>normally</b> < 35		28-A-1		

## ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

When the **Stroke Diagnostic Tool** is completed, its recommendation is paired with the time frame of symptom onset, generating 12 combination suffixes.

**COMPLETED Stroke Diagnostic Tool**

**C** = PARTIAL evidence (Less than "T" hrs)  
**D** = PARTIAL evidence (Greater than "T" hrs)  
**E** = PARTIAL evidence (Unknown time frame)  
**F** = STRONG evidence (Less than "T" hrs)  
**H** = STRONG evidence (Greater than "T" hrs)  
**I** = STRONG evidence (Unknown time frame)  
**J** = CLEAR evidence (Less than "T" hrs)  
**K** = CLEAR evidence (Greater than "T" hrs)  
**M** = CLEAR evidence (Unknown time frame)  
**X** = No test evidence (Less than "T" hrs)  
**Y** = No test evidence (Greater than "T" hrs)  
**Z** = No test evidence (Unknown time frame)

**NOT COMPLETED or NOT USED Tool**

**L** = Less than "T" hours (since the symptoms started)  
**G** = Greater than "T" hours (since the symptoms started)  
**U** = Unknown (when the symptoms started)

**STROKE**

Disruption of blood flow to the brain or part of the brain due to a **blood clot** or **hemorrhage**. Hemorrhage causes increased pressure within the skull and is more likely to cause a decreased level of consciousness (alertness), unconsciousness, or death.

A temporary interruption of blood supply to an area of the brain, sometimes called a "mini-stroke." It is usually caused by a small blood clot and results in a **sudden, brief decrease in brain function and STROKE-like symptoms**. These symptoms usually last 1 or 2 hours, but no more than 24 hours.

**STROKE Treatment Time Window**

The **time of symptom onset** is determined in **Key Questions**. Hospital and/or responder notification of this finding plays an important part in preparing the patient's therapy. The suffix codes for **STROKE** include a **locally defined treatment time window: Less than "T" hrs, Greater than "T" hrs, and Unknown.**

**"T" = Time window set by local Medical Control:**

Approval signature of local Medical Control \_\_\_\_\_ Date approved \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules**

- STROKE must receive an immediate response that is not subject to delay.** Lights-and-siren are **not recommended**; however, there should be a sense of urgency.
- Because there is **no way in the prehospital environment** to tell whether symptoms are from a **TIA or an acute STROKE**, EMDs should assume that **all STROKE-like symptoms signal an emergency** and need prompt evaluation.

... "cerebrovascular accident (CVA) and brain attack" are commonly used terms for **STROKE**.

- Alert **STROKE** patients should be treated as if they can hear and are aware of their surroundings. If the patient is conscious but not talking, **verbal reassurance may be helpful**.
- Once a **patient has had a STROKE**, their chance of **having another STROKE increases**.
- Some **younger people have STROKES** (often fatal) from a ballooned blood vessel called a berry aneurysm that expands and then breaks. This condition is present from birth (congenital). Early symptoms include a sudden, severe headache.
- The Stroke Diagnostic Tool enables EMDs to **notify stroke centers early** in an effort to **decrease the time from symptom onset to definitive treatment**. The dispatcher's report of Stroke Diagnostic Tool results, symptom onset time, and witnessing persons' contact information **helps hospitals prepare and improves patient outcomes**.

**STROKE Symptoms**

Select **Protocol 28** for the conscious and breathing patient when the **caller initially reports "stroke"** or the **sudden onset** of one or more of the following symptoms:

- Sudden **speech** problems
- Sudden **weakness, numbness, or paralysis** of the face, arm, or leg **on one side** of the body
- Sudden **loss of balance or coordination**
- Sudden **trouble seeing** in one or both eyes
- Sudden, **severe headache** with no known cause

While **symptoms** such as trouble speaking, trouble understanding, or confusion may be caused by a **STROKE**, they may also be due to a decreased level of consciousness (priority symptom) caused by many other problems. The **Chief Complaint** should be very **carefully evaluated** at the **"Tell me exactly what happened"** point in Case Entry to determine the exact medical condition.

### Patient Care Policy (Adult) Modified On: July 24, 2018 31 ACUTE STROKE

**PURPOSE:** To identify acute stroke patients who may be candidates for thrombolysis and specialized care at a certified stroke center. Information in this policy is based on the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS). The CPSS evaluates using FASTT criteria (Facial droop, Arm drift, Speech abnormalities, Time of onset/Transport)

**Certified Stroke Centers:** The following hospitals have been designated as certified stroke centers. If possible patient should be transported to the patient's regular source of hospitalization and/or healthcare.

- Alameda Hospital, Alameda
- Eden Medical Center, Castro Valley
- Kaiser Hospital, Fremont
- Kaiser Hospital, Oakland
- Kaiser Hospital, San Leandro
- Stanford Valley Care, Pleasanton
- Summit Medical Center, Oakland
- Washington Hospital, Fremont

Consider transport to one of the following out-of-county centers, if appropriate. Contact the stroke center prior to transport.

- San Ramon Medical Center, San Ramon
- Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto
- John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek
- Kaiser Hospital, Walnut Creek
- Regional Medical Center, San Jose

**Assessment and transport of suspected Acute Stroke patient:** Provide routine medical care including pulse oximetry

ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

Obtain blood glucose  
Assess the patient using the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale

**Note: Early transport is essential if CPSS is positive**

**Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale**

<b>Sign/Symptom</b>	<b>How Tested</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Abnormal</b>
Facial Droop	Have the patient show their teeth or smile	Both sides of the face move equally	One side of the face does not move as well as the other
Arm Drift	The patient closes their eyes and extends both arms straight out for 10 seconds	Both arms move the same, or both do not move at all.	One arm either does not move, or one arm drifts downward compared to the other.
Speech	The patient repeats "The sky is blue in Cincinnati".	The patient says correct words with no slurring of words.	The patient slurs words, says the wrong words, or is unable to speak
Time of Onset	must be within <b>4</b> hours, observed by a reliable witness or reported by a reliable patient (for thrombolysis)		
Transport	The patient is considered a <u>possible</u> Acute Stroke patient if <u>any</u> of the tested signs/symptoms are abnormal and must be transported to the closest, most appropriate certified stroke center. If possible, patient should be transported to the patient's regular source of hospitalization and/or healthcare.		

**The patient may be a candidate for thrombolysis if all of the following are true:** One or more of the CPSS signs/symptoms are present. CPSS signs/symptoms were initially observed within **4 hours** of contact by a reliable witness or reported by a reliable patient.

**Please note:** Ask when the patient was last seen at normal baseline **and** when the onset of new stroke signs and symptoms appeared. Normal blood glucose level is obtained

**Make sure to either:**  
**transport the witness to the stroke center in the ambulance (PREFERRED); OR,**  
**if driving, tell him/her to leave immediately and meet you at the stroke center; AND,**  
**obtain a contact number where the witness can be reached by the attending physician**

**Treatment and support guidelines (to be done en route)**  
Transport patient in supine position. If this position is not tolerated or there is evidence of increasing intracranial pressure/intracranial hemorrhage transport in semi fowlers with no more than 30° head elevation

O2 – titrate to 94-99% SpO2

## ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

Establish IV access en route using an 18 gauge (no smaller than 20 gauge) proximal to wrist (AC preferred). No more than 1 AC attempt and no more than 2 IV attempts total. Maintain with a saline lock or IV infusion set TKO

Obtain a 12-Lead EKG en route when a dysrhythmia or ACS symptoms are present (specifically watch for STEMI and/or atrial fibrillation)

Immediately call the designated stroke center via phone and/or radio and notify them that you are transporting a “possible Acute Stroke patient by the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS), ETA \_\_\_\_\_ minutes”. (Reminder: See “Diversion Criteria” or the information on page v of the field manual regarding CT Diversion)

Document the results of the assessment on the PCR and specifically describe any of the CPSS signs and/or symptoms that were abnormal

### **Section 5. EMS Communication to PSRC**

The below methods/technologies address and comply with § 100270.222. EMS Personnel and Early Recognition

- 5.1 Radio ring down from transporting ambulance as soon as possible for early PSRC notification.
- 5.2 Designated priority telephone line to be used by prehospital personnel to contact the PSRC regarding patients with suspected stroke that are being transported to that facility for potential intervention.
- 5.3 At any time an EMS provider can make online-recorded contact with the ALCO EMS approved Base Station physician for medical control and direction to help determine the most appropriate facility to transport a patient in cases of confusing or complex findings.

### **Section 6. Stroke Inter-Facility Transfer (IFT) Policy/Protocol**

ALCO EMS designated PSRCs shall have a plan for emergency transport to a facility with neurovascular intervention and or neurosurgery availability that describes steps for timely transfer. A paramedic-staffed ALS ambulance using the 911 system for emergent transfers is strongly recommended, even for patients that require interventions that are out of scope of practice for paramedics. In these cases, a nurse from the transferring center shall accompany the patient to manage the intervention/therapy that is out of Paramedic scope of practice: tpA infusion and or infusion for blood pressure control. A non-911 Critical Care Transport (CCT) ambulance can also be used if appropriate and timely. If 911 EMS ALS ambulance is used, the ALCO EMS policy shall apply:

#### **Operations: INTERFACILITY TRANSFERS, Modified On: July 24, 2018**

Note: This policy pertains to emergency transfers to a higher level of care that come through the 9-1-1 system. See “Scheduled Interfacility Transfers Using Paramedic Personnel” (policy #4605 Administration Policy Manual) for more information.

1. All patient care rendered by prehospital care personnel must be within the defined scope of practice according to Title 22 and Alameda County EMS protocols
2. A paramedic may only take orders from a base hospital physician. (See 5.2 below) There are no provisions for an EMT to take orders from a physician

## ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

3. EMT-Bs may only transfer a patient without an emergency medical condition; or, with an emergency medical condition that has been stabilized and has no potential (within reasonable probability) to deteriorate en route
4. Paramedics (in addition to 3) may only transport a patient who has not been stabilized to a facility that provides a higher level of care. The transferring physician must determine if the care that may be required during transport is within the scope of practice of a paramedic. If not, appropriate hospital staff and/or equipment should be sent with the patient
5. Base Contact by Paramedics
  - 5.1 Base Contact is required prior to transport if the transferring physician orders any ALS treatment and/or the patient has not been stabilized
  - 5.2 Paramedics may follow transferring physician's written orders ONLY when 1) the transferring physician speaks to the Base Physician, and they mutually agree on the course of treatment; 2) the proposed treatment plan is within the paramedic's scope of practice
  - 5.3 Base Physician contact shall be made:
    - ▶▶ When there is a request to transfer a patient to a higher level of care facility that is not the "closest, most appropriate" higher level of care facility.
  - 5.4 Base Contact is not required if the patient is stable and no ALS treatment has been ordered by the transferring physician. If the patient's condition changes during transport, see the appropriate patient care policy and treat accordingly
6. Base Contact may be made anytime a paramedic has a question regarding patient condition, destination and/or the appropriateness of the transfer
7. An Alameda County Unusual Occurrence (U.O.) form should be completed for any problem-oriented interfacility transfers. The U.O. form should be sent to the EMS office for review. [See Administration Manual UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES (#2300)]
8. Refer to "Interfacility Transfer Guidelines" [see Administration Manual INTERFACILITY TRANSFER GUIDELINES (# 5600)] for transfer approval process

### **Section 7. EMS/PSRC Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting**

- (a) The ALCO EMS agency implemented a standardized data collection and reporting process for a Stroke Critical Care System over a decade ago.
- (b) The Stroke Critical Care System includes the collection of both prehospital and hospital patient care data, as determined by ALCO EMS agency and complies with § 100270.228. Data Management Requirements
- (c) The prehospital stroke patient care elements selected by ALCO EMS are compliant with the most current version of the California EMS Information Systems (CEMSIS) database, and the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) via ESO Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR).
- (d) The hospital stroke patient care elements shall be consistent with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Program Resource Guide, dated October 24, 2016, which is hereby incorporated by reference. All ALCO EMS designated PSRCs participate in patient-centric clinical performance and outcome data entry using the American Heart Association (AHA) Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) Stroke Registry, which ALCO EMS has "Super User" access via a Data Use Agreement (DUA).
- (e) All hospitals that receive stroke patients via EMS shall participate in the local EMS agency data collection process in accordance with local EMS agency policies and procedures.

## ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

(f) The prehospital care record and the hospital data elements shall be collected and submitted by the local EMS agency, and subsequently to the EMS Authority, on no less than a quarterly basis.

Note: Authority cited: Sections. 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Section 1797.102, 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, 1797.227, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

- 7.1 PSRC shall collect on going aggregate data (de-identified) for patients as shown below and forward to ALCO EMS for review annually or on EMS request:
- a) Number of EMS Stroke Alerts.
  - b) Number patients with diagnosis of Non-Stroke.
  - c) Number of patients with diagnosis of AHS.
  - d) Number of patients with diagnosis of TIA.
  - e) Number of patients with diagnosis of AIS.
  - f) Number of AIS patients treated with systemic (IV) tpA.
  - g) Percentage of AIS patients treated with tpA  $\leq$ 60 minutes of arrival.
  - h) Median "Door-to-Drug" time for AIS patients treated with tpA.
  - i) Number of AIS patients that received an acute IR Approach.
  - j) Number of AIS patients treated with systemic (IV) tpA and transferred to an IR (thrombectomy) capable facility for further diagnostics and treatment.
  - k) Number of non-EMS patients diagnosed in ED with AIS diagnosis (Dx).
  - l) Number of non-EMS patients treated with systemic (IV) tpA.
  - m) Percentage of non-EMS patients treated with tpA  $\leq$ 60 minutes of Dx.
  - n) Median "Door-to-Drug" time for non-EMS AIS patients treated with tpA.
  - o) Number of non-EMS AIS patients that received an acute IR Approach.
  - p) Number of non-EMS AIS patients treated with systemic (IV) tpA and transferred to an IR (thrombectomy) capable facility for further diagnostics and treatment.
- 7.2 Provide data for ALL EMS transported patients (identified) with suspected stroke. Patient specific follow-up data must be accessible to ALCO EMS as soon as possible or within 30 calendar days of previous month's end.
- 7.3 PSRC shall facilitate implementation of future data elements related to Stroke System performance improvement activities.
- 7.4 PSRC shall allow the use of provided data for IRB approved clinical research without hospital identifiers.

### **Section 8. Regional PSRC Integration**

ALCO EMS has been involved with a Bay Area Stroke Coordinators' group for the past five years. We meet approximately once per year with attendees from both EMS and Stroke Receiving Centers as well as industry support personnel in the pharmaceutical and technological arenas. ALCO EMS includes surrounding county representatives from both EMS and SRCs at Alameda County's Stroke System QI Meetings. ALCO EMS also attends out-of-county Stroke System meetings.

ALCO EMS supports the transport of suspected stroke patients to out-of-county SRCs if appropriate:

"Consider transport to one of the following out-of-county centers, if appropriate. Contact the stroke center prior to transport."

San Ramon Medical Center, San Ramon  
Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto  
John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek  
Kaiser Hospital, Walnut Creek  
Regional Medical Center, San Jose



**Section 9. Continued Quality Oversight/Improvement Strategies/Compliance**

9.1 The Stroke System quality improvement process was established by Alameda County EMS and includes contractual participation of ALL eight currently designated PSRCs.

(a) ALCO EMS Stroke Critical Care System shall have a quality improvement process that complies with § 100270.229. Quality Improvement and Evaluation Process. This QI process includes, at a minimum but not limited to:

- (1) Evaluation of program structure, process, and outcome.
- (2) Review of stroke-related deaths, major complications, and transfers.
- (3) A multidisciplinary Stroke Quality Improvement Committee, including both prehospital and hospital members.
- (4) Participation in the QI process by all designated stroke centers and prehospital providers involved in the stroke critical care system.
- (5) Evaluation of regional integration of stroke patient movement.
- (6) Participation in the stroke data management system.
- (7) Compliance with the California Evidence Code, Section 1157.7 to ensure confidentiality, and a disclosure-protected review of selected stroke cases.

(b) ALCO EMS agency is responsible for ongoing performance evaluation and quality improvement of the Stroke Critical Care System by continuing the following strategies that satisfy (1-7) in this section. Criteria for reviews, evaluations and benchmarking are referenced and compared to current evidence-based guidelines and recommendations for recognized standards in stroke care: the American Heart Association (AHA)/American Stroke Association (ASA) and the Joint Commission (JC).

9.2 PSRC Program staff shall participate in Alameda County EMS PSRC QI Committee meetings, with a minimum requirement of two per year.

9.3 PSRC shall maintain a written internal quality improvement plan for stroke patients that includes, but is not limited to the determination and evaluation of:

- a) Death rate
- b) Complications
- c) Sentinel events
- d) System issues
- e) Organizational issues and resolution processes

9.4 PSRC shall support EMS Agency QI activities including educational activities for prehospital personnel.

9.5 PSRC shall provide continuous oversight for ALL sections as described in MOU.

## ALCO EMS STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN

- 9.6 PSRC shall advise/update EMS immediately regarding any changes to any section as described in MOU.
- 9.7 PSRC shall participate in an annual review (on request by EMS) regarding modifications of any and compliance with ALL sections as described in MOU.
- 9.8 PSRC shall comply with ALL sections required by California Code of Regulations Title 22. Social Security Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Chapter 7.2 Stroke Critical Care System: ARTICLE 4. HOSPITAL STROKE CARE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIONS.
- 9.9 PSRC shall comply with ALL sections described and agreed upon in ALCO EMS MOU:
- Scope of services
  - Hospital services
  - Hospital personnel
  - Performance standards
  - Hospital policies and procedures
  - Data collection and required reports
  - Quality improvement
  - Compliance
- 9.10 Failure by PSRC to comply with any section(s) as defined or described in California Code of Regulations Title 22. Social Security Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Chapter 7.2 Stroke Critical Care System: ARTICLE 4. HOSPITAL STROKE CARE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIONS or ALCO EMS MOU may result in the loss of EMS Stroke patients transported to PSRC for potential intervention until compliance issue(s) is resolved.

### **Section 10. Cardiovascular (CV) Public Education - Awareness/EMS Education**

For the past five years, the ALCO EMS Stroke System has worked collaboratively with the Pacific Stroke Association out of San Mateo County in an effort to improve public awareness regarding the signs and symptoms of stroke. The strategy used for this community outreach initiative has been leveraging personnel from fire, EMS and PSRCs to hand out “FAST” cards at selected BART stations in Alameda County. Health fairs, churches and festivals have also been venues for public dissemination of the informational cards. In addition, ALCO EMS offers a monthly new provider orientation as a venue for PSRC stroke team staff to provide EMS stroke education to field personnel.

# **EXHIBIT - A**

**Emergency Medical Services  
Primary Stroke Receiving Center  
Agreement**

County of Alameda

and

*“Primary Stroke Receiving Center”*

**Date: January 1, 2017**

# Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement

Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_

## DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>AHS</b>	Acute Hemorrhagic Stroke
<b>AIS</b>	Acute Ischemic Stroke
<b>ALCO</b>	Alameda County
<b>BHDE</b>	Bidirectional Healthcare Data Exchange
<b>CT</b>	Computed Tomography
<b>Dx</b>	Diagnosis
<b>ED</b>	Emergency Department
<b>EMS</b>	Emergency Medical Services
<b>HIPAA</b>	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
<b>HITECH</b>	Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act
<b>IA</b>	Intra-arterial
<b>IR</b>	Interventional Radiology
<b>JCAHO (JC)</b>	Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
<b>MRI</b>	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
<b>PSRC</b>	Primary Stroke Receiving Center designation by Alameda County for patients transported via the 9-1-1 system with suspected possible Stroke who may benefit by rapid assessment and timely treatment with fibrinolytic if warranted.
<b>QI</b>	Quality Improvement
<b>STROKE</b>	A <b>stroke</b> , previously known medically as a <b>cerebrovascular accident (CVA)</b> , is the rapidly developing loss of brain function(s) due to disturbance in the blood supply to the brain. This can be due to

**Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement**

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	ischemia (lack of blood flow) caused by blockage (thrombosis, atrial embolism), or a hemorrhage (leakage of blood).
<b>TIA</b>	Transient Ischemic Accident
<b>tpA</b>	Tissue Plasminogen Activator

## Section 1 - Introduction

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- 1.1 Alameda County is designated as the Local Emergency Medical Service Agency (LEMSA) as defined in the California Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Sections 1797.94, 1797.67, 1798, and 1798.170.responsible for establishing policies and procedures within its jurisdiction.
- 1.2 This Agreement, dated as of the first day of January, 2017 , is by and between the COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, hereinafter referred to as the "COUNTY", and "**INSERT FACILITY NAME**" , hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor".
- 1.3 Whereas, COUNTY, in consideration of the County's designation of Contractor as a Primary Stroke Receiving Center (PSRC) as described in EMS policy, Contractor shall perform the services identified in this agreement without interruption, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 52 weeks per year for the full term of this Contract, as set forth in Exhibit A. Exceptions would include, the lack of technology (equipment) available to perform appropriate diagnostics : catastrophic plant or equipment failure (CT and or MRI) or pre-planned scheduled maintenance.
- 1.4 Whereas, Contractor is professionally qualified to provide such services and is willing to provide same to COUNTY.
- 1.5 Now, therefore it is agreed that COUNTY does hereby designate Contractor to provide Primary Stroke Services, and Contractor accepts such designation as specified in this Agreement, and the following described exhibits, all of which are incorporated into this Agreement by this reference:
- Exhibit A
- Exhibit B
- Exhibit C
- 1.6 The parties hereby execute this single agreement which will constitute formal designation of Contractor as a Primary Stroke Receiving Center within the Alameda County EMS system under Health & Safety Code Sections 1797.67 and 1798.170 et seq.

## Section 2 - Term

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- 2.1 The term of this Agreement shall be from May 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019.

# Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement

Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2.2 Designation will be for a three year period of time. The current designation period expires December 31, 2019 , at which time contractor shall submit a new PSRC application and provide supporting documentation that reflects compliance with current requirements as approved by ALCO EMS.

## Section 3 - Services

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- 3.1 Contractor shall provide hospital and personnel services as described in Exhibit A, data collection and reporting requirements, as described in Exhibits A and B, quality improvement requirements as described in Exhibit A. Contractor shall participate in an annual review and adhere to compliance standards as described in Exhibit A. For initial EMS approval, Contractor shall complete and submit a PSRC Application as described in Exhibit C. (EMS Policies and protocols for the ALCO PSRC program will be reviewed and revised as needed for system enhancements)

## Section 4 - Required Reports

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- 4.1 Contractor shall provide data, specified in Exhibit B, for individual EMS transported patients (identified) with suspected Stroke. Patient specific EMS Stroke Alert Follow-Up (B-2) data must be sent to ALCO EMS as soon as possible or within 30 calendar days following the prior month's end or on receipt of request and must include ALL:
- EMS transported patients
- 4.2 Contractor shall submit an annual aggregate performance data report in the format established by the EMS Agency in Exhibit B (B-1). Said report shall be submitted on EMS request or within 30 calendar days of previous month end of calendar quarter or calendar year respectively and present said data at requested ALCO EMS PSRC Meeting.
- 4.3 Any/all data elements specified in Exhibit B are subject to modification/change at any time as agreed upon by the EMS Agency and Contractor.



**Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement**

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**Section 5 - Signatory**

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

**COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

**CONTRACTOR**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Signature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Printed)

(Printed)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to Form:

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*By signing above, signatory warrants and represents that he/she executed this Agreement in his/her authorized capacity and that by his/her signature on this Agreement, he/she or the entity upon behalf of which he/she acted, executed this Agreement.*

Scott Dickey, Deputy County Counsel

## EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF SERVICES

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### 1. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Contractor shall:

- 1.1 Be currently certified as a Primary Stroke Center and without interruption provide all services according to the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) requirements for Disease-Specific Care (DSC) Advanced Certification Program for Primary Stroke Centers: Program Management (DSPR), Delivering or Facilitating Clinical Care (DSDF), Supporting Self Management (DSSE), Clinical Information Management (DSCT), and Performance Measurement (DSPM) as specified in the Disease Specific Care Certification Manual (Current standards for PSRC JC Certification cycle).
- 1.2 Accept all Alameda County EMS patients triaged as having suspected Stroke and transported to Contractor's facility and provide appropriate medical management for said patients without regard to race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, age, sex, or ability to pay.

### 2. HOSPITAL SERVICES

Contractor shall keep in effect the following:

- a) Licensure under California Health and Safety Code Section 1250 et seq.
- b) Permit for Basic or Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services pursuant to the provisions of Title 22, Division 5, of the California Code of Regulations,
- c) Designated priority telephone line to be used by prehospital personnel to contact the PSRC regarding patients with suspected Stroke that are being transported to that facility for potential intervention,
- d) Neurovascular intervention and Neurosurgical availability.
  - i. Neurovascular intervention and or neurosurgery; or,
  - ii. A plan for emergency transport to a facility with neurovascular intervention and or Neurosurgery availability that describes steps for timely transfer.

### 3. HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

Contractor shall provide program oversight staff and shall have available all staff necessary to perform optimal care for patients with Stroke, including the following:

#### 3.1 PSRC Program Medical Director

##### 3.1.1. Qualifications:

- Board Certified in either Internal Medicine, Cardiology, or Neurology and have preferred knowledge and expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

##### 3.1.2. Responsibilities:

- Oversight of PSRC program patient care,

# Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement

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- Coordination of staff and services,
- Authority and accountability for quality and performance improvement,
- Participation in protocol development,
- Establishes and monitors quality control, including Mortality and Morbidity, and,
- Participation in County PSRC QI Committee.

## 3.2 PSRC Program Coordinator

### 3.2.1. Qualifications:

- Stroke patient / program experience (ED, ICU, CCU).

### 3.2.2. Responsibilities:

- Supports PSRC Medical Director Functions
- Acts as EMS-PSRC Program Liaison
- Assures EMS-PSRC data sharing
- Manages EMS-PSRC QI activities
- Authority and accountability for quality oversight and performance improvement.

3.3 **Physician Consultants** - Hospital shall maintain a daily on-call schedule for: Neurologist(s) (on-site or remote); Radiologist(s) (on-site or remote); and Interventional Neurologist(s), Neurosurgeon(s) if these services are provided by Hospital.

## 3.4 Additional personnel:

- a) Stroke Team
- b) Emergency department (ED)
- c) Interventional radiology (IR)
- d) Neurosurgery
- e) Nursing
- f) Computed tomography (CT)
- g) Laboratory
- h) Pharmacy
- i) Rehabilitation
- j) Inpatient units

## 4. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Contractor shall follow current science/evidence based recommendations regarding the assessment and treatment of acute ischemic stroke (American Heart Association / American Stroke Association); and strive to meet the following recommended timelines in caring for patients who present to Hospital with identified ischemic stroke :

- 4.1 Systemic Fibrinolytic within 4.5 hours of symptom onset if administered.
- 4.2 Systemic Fibrinolytic within 60 minutes of ED arrival if administered.

# Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement

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## 5. HOSPITAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Contractor shall:

- 5.1 Develop and implement policies and procedures designed to ensure that patients presenting to Hospital with possible Stroke receive appropriate care in a timely manner. Such internal policies shall include: Program Management (DSPR), Delivering or Facilitating Clinical Care (DSDF), Supporting Self-Management (DSSE), Clinical Information Management (DSCT), and Performance Measurement (DSPM) as defined and specified by The Joint Commission (JCAHO) requirements for Disease-Specific Care (DSC) Advanced Certification Program for Primary Stroke Center Certification Manual (Current standards for PSRC JC Certification cycle).

## 6. DATA COLLECTION AND REQUIRED REPORTS

- 6.1 As further specified in Exhibit B, Contractor shall collect on-going aggregate data (de-identified) for patients below and forward to Alameda County Emergency Medical Services review: annual or on EMS request:
- a) Number of EMS "Stroke Alerts".
  - b) Number of above patients (6.1.1) with diagnosis of Non-Stroke.
  - c) Number of above patients (6.1.1) with diagnosis of AHS.
  - d) Number of above patients (6.1.1) with diagnosis of TIA.
  - e) Number of above patients (6.1.1) with diagnosis of AIS.
  - f) Number of above AIS patients (6.1.5) treated with systemic (IV) TPA.
  - g) % of above AIS patients (6.1.6) treated with TPA ≤60 minutes of arrival.
  - h) Median "Door-to-Drug" time of above AIS patients (6.1.6) treated with TPA.
  - i) Number of AIS patients (6.1.5) that received an acute IR Approach.
  - j) Number of AIS patients (6.1.6) treated with systemic (IV) TPA and transferred to an IR capable facility for further diagnostics and treatment.
  - k) Number of Non-EMS patients diagnosed in ED with AIS diagnosis (Dx).
  - l) Number of above Non-EMS patients (6.1.11) treated with systemic (IV) TPA.
  - m) % of above Non-EMS patients (6.1.12) treated with TPA ≤60 minutes of Dx.
  - n) Median "Door-to-Drug" time of above AIS patients (6.1.12) treated with TPA.
  - o) Number of AIS patients (6.1.11) that received an acute IR Approach.
  - p) Number of AIS patients (6.1.12) treated with systemic (IV) TPA and transferred to an IR capable facility for further diagnostics and treatment.
- 6.2 Provide data for ALL EMS transported patients (identified) with suspected possible Stroke. Patient specific Follow-Up data must be sent to ALCO EMS as soon as possible or within 30 calendar days of previous months end or date of request received.
- 6.3 At minimum, participate by providing data to a National Stroke Registry using American Heart Association Get with the Guidelines Stroke (GWTG) data base and be willing to further participate in other data sharing strategies that may include but are not limited to: the California Stroke Registry and or the Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry on request by contractor (ALCO EMS).

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- 6.4 Facilitate implementation of future data elements related to Stroke system performance improvement activities.
- 6.5 Contractor shall allow the use of provided data for IRB approved clinical research without hospital identifiers.
- 6.6 The data further specified in Exhibits B1-2 shall be provided to the EMS Agency in the timeline and manner defined, until such time as a Bidirectional Healthcare Data Exchange (BHDE) network is established between County EMS and the PSRC Contractor.
- 6.7 At some specific point in time (to be determined at the discretion of EMS) during the term of this MOU, the contractor will establish a Bidirectional Healthcare Data Exchange (BHDE) network with County EMS.
- 6.8 The cost to establish the BHDE network between County EMS and the Contractor shall be fairly shared by apportionment as agreed upon by both parties.
- 6.9 The BHDE network established between County EMS and the Contractor must be interoperable with other data systems, including the functionality to exchange electronic patient health information in real-time with other entities in an HL7 format.
- 6.10 The minimum requirements and capability of the BHDE network established between County EMS and the Contractor shall include but are not limited to:
  - 6.10.1 Search a patient's health record for problems, medications, allergies, and end of life decisions to enhance clinical decision making;
  - 6.10.2 Alert the receiving hospital regarding the patient's status directly onto a dashboard in the emergency department to provide decision support;
  - 6.10.3 File the EMS Patient Care Report data directly into the patient's electronic health record for timely and longitudinal patient care documentation;
  - 6.10.4 Reconcile the electronic health record information including diagnoses and disposition back into the EMS patient care report for use in ensuring timely provider feedback and enhanced quality improvement strategies for the County EMS system.
- 6.11 Any access to, or exchange of, individually identifiable health information or protected health information shall comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HiTECH).

## 7. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- 7.1 PSRC Program staff shall participate in Alameda County EMS PSRC QI Committee meetings, with a minimum requirement of two / year.
- 7.2 PSRC shall maintain a written internal quality improvement plan for Stroke patients that includes, but is not limited to the determination and evaluation of:
  - a) Death rate
  - b) Complications
  - c) Sentinel events

## Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement

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- d) System issues
- e) Organizational issues and resolution processes

7.3 PSRC shall support EMS Agency QI activities including educational activities for prehospital personnel.

### 8. COMPLIANCE

8.1 Contractor shall provide continuous Oversight for ALL sections as described in Exhibit A.

8.2 Contractor shall advise/up-date EMS immediately regarding any changes to any section as described in Exhibit A.

8.3 Contractor shall participate in an annual review (on request by EMS) regarding modifications of any and compliance with ALL sections as described in Exhibit A.

8.4 Contractor shall comply with ALL sections as described in the Scope of Services (Exhibit A):

- Scope of services
- Hospital services
- Hospital personnel
- Performance standards
- Hospital policies and procedures
- Data collection and required reports
- Quality improvement
- Compliance

8.5 Failure by Contractor to comply with any section(s) as described in Exhibit A or B may result in the loss of EMS Stroke patients transported to contractor's PSRC for potential intervention until compliance issue(s) is resolved.

## EXHIBIT B – DATA ELEMENTS

As set forth in Sections 4-6 of the Agreement, Contractor shall provide the specified data elements in the formats established by the EMS Agency and included in this Exhibit B (B1-2):

As specified in Section 6 of Exhibit A to the Agreement:

### B-1

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Contractor shall collect continuous aggregate (de-identified) performance measures using data elements below, submitted on EMS request and presented to Alameda County Emergency Medical Services on an annual basis at ALCO PSRC meeting (6.1.1-6.1.16).

#### Alameda County EMS PSRC Annual Performance Data (20??)

1. Number of EMS “Stroke Alerts”.
  - 1a. Number of above patients (1) with diagnosis of Non-Stroke.
  - 1b. Number of above patients (1) with diagnosis of AHS.
  - 1c. Number of above patients (1) with diagnosis of TIA.
  - 1d. Number of above patients (1) with diagnosis of AIS.
2. Number of above AIS patients (1d) treated with systemic (IV) TPA.
  - 2a. % of above AIS patients (2) treated with TPA ≤60 minutes of arrival.
  - 2b. Median “Door-to-Drug” time of above AIS patients (2) treated with TPA.
  - 2c. Number of AIS patients (1d) that received an acute IR Approach.
  - 2d. Number of AIS patients (2) treated with systemic (IV) TPA and transferred to an IR capable facility for further diagnostics and treatment.
3. Number of Non-EMS patients diagnosed in ED with AIS diagnosis (Dx).
  - 3a. Number of above Non-EMS patients (3) treated with systemic (IV) TPA.
  - 3b. % of above Non-EMS patients (3a) treated with TPA ≤60 minutes of Dx.
  - 3c. Median “Door-to-Drug” time of above AIS patients (3a) treated with TPA.
  - 3d. Number of AIS patients (3) that received an acute IR Approach.
  - 3e. Number of AIS patients (3a) treated with systemic (IV) TPA and transferred to an IR capable facility for further diagnostics and treatment

### B-2

Contractor shall provide PSRC performance and clinical outcome data for individual EMS patients transported with suspected Stroke (PHI patient list to be provided via SECURE email by EMS). Patient specific follow-up data shall include

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## Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement

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**but not be limited to data elements listed below and shall be collected and sent to ALCO EMS as soon as possible or within 30 calendar days following the prior month's end or on receipt of request by EMS.**

### **EMS Patient Inclusion Criteria (Stroke Alert follow-up)**

#### **All patients who:**

Have **one or more** positive finding(s): signs/symptoms are present when assessed with the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS), has a normal blood glucose level when obtained and CPSS signs/symptoms were initially observed within **4 hours** of contact by a valid historian.

**Please note:** ask when the patient was last seen at normal baseline **and** when the onset of new stroke signs and symptoms appeared, and interpreted by EMS as suspected Stroke and transported to a PSRC for potential intervention. **(Data collection tool B2)**

#### **B2**

#### **STROKE ALERT / IFT FOLLOW-UP**

- Was the patient a "Stroke Alert" by EMS?
- Stroke confirmed at hospital: if yes, (ischemic, hemorrhagic or TIA)
- Was patient transported by EMS to your PSRC, NOT "Stroke Alerted" and diagnosed with Stroke?
- Was EMS recorded "TIME patient last known normal or at base-line" different than recorded at PSRC?
- Was a Systemic (IV) fibrinolytic (tpA) administered at PSRC?
- If yes, was the systemic (IV) fibrinolytic (tpA) administered within 4.5 hours of symptom onset?
- Was the (IV) systemic fibrinolytic (tpA) administered within 60 minutes of EMS ED arrival?
- If a systemic fibrinolytic (tpA) was NOT administered (reason)?
- Did the patient receive an Acute IR approach (if PSRC capable)?



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- **Was the patient transferred from your PSRC to another hospital for further IR diagnostics and or treatment?**
- **Comments:**
- **Diagnoses:**

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Application/Interest Form

EXHIBIT C – PSRC APPLICATION

Alameda County EMS Primary Stroke Receiving Center (PSRC) Designation

(To complete this form electronically tab through the fields and then save it.)

Objective: To assess the interest and capabilities of Alameda County hospitals for designation as an EMS stroke receiving center.

Definition: A stroke receiving center is a hospital that receives pre-screened Alameda County EMS patients and that is certified as a primary stroke center by Joint Commission.

In the future, Alameda County EMS may further designate PSRCs to include “enhanced” capabilities for the treatment of stroke patients. These interventions include but are not restricted to intra-arterial fibrinolytics and invasive arterial or surgical procedures (e.g., Invasive Radiologic Approaches).

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ext \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ street \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the person completing the form: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ext: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your facility currently certified as a primary stroke center by Joint Commission (JC)?  Yes  No

If yes, what is the date of certification expiration? \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

If no, are you in the process of applying?  Yes  No

(Note: Joint Commission certification visit on “ENTER DATE”, Evidence of Standards Compliance submission pending).

If yes, when do you anticipate certification? \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

If no, please keep EMS informed if you change your mind in the future. You do not need to complete the remainder of this form – thank you.

If your facility is currently JC Certified as a PSC or in process, please fill out below:

Name of stroke center Medical Director?

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ext: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of stroke center Nurse Coordinator?

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email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ext: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Name of stroke center Administrative Liaison?**

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email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ext: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Name of Liaison for data collection, analysis, and reporting?** Phone: ext: \_\_\_\_\_

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email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ext: \_\_\_\_\_

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**What is the dedicated phone number for EMS stroke patient notification?** Phone: ext: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Does your facility participate in the American Heart Association (AHA) Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) Stroke data registry?**  Yes  No

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**If your facility participates in any additional stroke registries, please list:**

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If your facility is certified by Joint Commission as a primary stroke center and you wish to be designated as a PSRC by Alameda County EMS, or your facility is renewing its status with EMS, please complete this form and, save it and email as an attachment, or print and mail or fax to:

**Karl Sporer, MD or, Michael Jacobs EMT-P**

1000 San Leandro Blvd. San Leandro, CA 94577

[Karl.sporer@acgov.org](mailto:Karl.sporer@acgov.org) or, [michael.jacobs@acgov.org](mailto:michael.jacobs@acgov.org)

(510) 618.2050 fax: (510) 618-2099

We will contact you to schedule a site visit. Thank you for your interest and support!

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**Alameda County Primary Stroke Receiving Center Agreement**

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# **EXHIBIT - B**

**California Code of Regulations**  
**Title 22. Social Security**  
**Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services**  
**Chapter 7.2 Stroke Critical Care System**

**ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS**

**§ 100270.200. Acute Stroke Ready Hospital**

“Acute stroke-ready hospitals” or “Satellite stroke centers” means a hospital able to provide the minimum level of critical care services for stroke patients in the emergency department, and are paired with one or more hospitals with a higher level of stroke services.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.201. Board-certified**

“Board-certified” means a physician who has fulfilled all the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements in a specialty field of practice, and has been awarded a certification by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved program.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107 and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.202. Board-eligible**

“Board-eligible” means a physician who has applied to a specialty board examination and has completed the requirements and is approved to take the examination by ABMS. Board certification must be obtained within the allowed time by ABMS from the first appointment.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.203. Comprehensive Stroke Center**

“Comprehensive stroke center” means a hospital with specific abilities to receive, diagnose and treat all stroke cases and provide the highest level of care for stroke patients.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.204. Clinical Stroke Team**

“Clinical stroke team” means a team of healthcare professionals who provide care for the stroke patient and may include, but is not limited to, neurologists, neuro-



interventionalists, neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, emergency medicine physicians, registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, and technologists.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.205. Emergency Medical Services Authority**

“Emergency Medical Services Authority” or “EMS Authority” means the department in California that is responsible for the coordination and the integration of all state activities concerning emergency medical services (EMS).

Note: Authority cited: Section 1797.107 Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.54, 1797.100, and 1797.103, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.206. Local Emergency Medical Services Agency**

“Local emergency medical services agency” or “local EMS agency” means the agency, department, or office having primary responsibility for administration of emergency medical services in a county and which is designated pursuant Health and Safety Code section 1797.200.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94 and 1797.200, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.207. Primary Stroke Center**

“Primary stroke center” means a hospital that treats acute stroke patients, and identifies patients who may benefit from transfer to a higher level of care when clinically warranted.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.208. Protocol**

“Protocol” means a predetermined, written medical care guideline, which may include standing orders.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.209. Quality Improvement**

“Quality improvement” or “QI” means methods of evaluation that are composed of a structure, process, and outcome evaluations which focus on improvement efforts to identify causes of problems, intervene to reduce or eliminate these causes, and take steps to correct the process and recognize excellence in performance and delivery of care.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176 and 1798.150 Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.174, 1797.202, 1797.204, 1797.220 and 1798.175, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.210. Stroke**

“Stroke” means a condition of impaired blood flow to a patient’s brain resulting in brain dysfunction, most commonly through vascular occlusion or hemorrhage.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.211. Stroke Call Roster**

“Stroke call roster” means a schedule of licensed health professionals available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week for the care of stroke patients.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103 and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.212. Stroke Care**

“Stroke care” means emergency transport, triage, diagnostic evaluation, acute intervention and other acute care services for stroke patients that potentially require immediate medical or surgical intervention treatment, and may include education, primary prevention, acute intervention, acute and subacute management, prevention of complications, secondary stroke prevention, and rehabilitative services.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**100270.213. Stroke Critical Care System**

“Stroke critical care system” means a subspecialty care component of the EMS system developed by a local EMS agency. This critical care system links prehospital and hospital care to deliver optimal treatment to the population of stroke patients.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.214. Stroke Medical Director**

“Stroke medical director” means a board-certified physician in neurology or neurosurgery or another board with sufficient experience and expertise dealing with cerebrovascular disease as determined by the hospital credentialing committee that is responsible for the stroke service, performance improvement, and patient safety programs related to a stroke critical care system.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety

Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.215. Stroke Program Manager**

“Stroke program manager” means a registered nurse or qualified individual designated by the hospital with the responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the care of stroke patients and the coordination of performance improvement and patient safety programs for the stroke center in conjunction with the stroke medical director.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.216. Stroke Program**

“Stroke program” means an organizational component of the hospital specializing in the care of stroke patients.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.217. Stroke Team**

“Stroke team” means the personnel, support personnel, and administrative staff that function together as part of the hospital’s stroke program.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.218. Telehealth**

“Telehealth” means the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient’s health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, and 1797.220, Health and Safety Code. California Business and Professions Code Sec. 2290.5

**§ 100270.219. Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center**

“Thrombectomy-capable stroke center” means a primary stroke center with the ability to perform mechanical thrombectomy for the ischemic stroke patient when clinically warranted.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, and 1798.150, Health and

Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103, and 1797.176, Health and Safety Code.

## **ARTICLE 2. LOCAL EMS AGENCY STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

### **§ 100270.220. Stroke Critical Care System Plan**

- (a) The local EMS agency may develop and implement a stroke critical care system.
- (b) The local EMS agency implementing a stroke critical care system shall have a Stroke Critical Care System Plan approved by the EMS Authority prior to implementation.
- (c) The Stroke Critical Care System Plan submitted to the EMS Authority shall include, at a minimum, all of the following components:
  - (1) The names and titles of the local EMS agency personnel who have a role in a stroke critical care system.
  - (2) The list of stroke designated facilities with the agreement expiration dates.
  - (3) A description or a copy of the local EMS agency's stroke patient identification and destination policies.
  - (4) A description or a copy of the method of field communication to the receiving hospital-specific to stroke patients, designed to expedite time-sensitive treatment on arrival.
  - (5) A description or a copy of the policy that facilitates the inter-facility transfer of stroke patients.
  - (6) A description of the method of data collection from the EMS providers and designated stroke hospitals to the local EMS agency and the EMS Authority.
  - (7) A policy or description of how the Local EMS agency integrates a receiving center in a neighboring jurisdiction.
  - (8) A description of the integration of stroke into an existing quality improvement committee or a description of any stroke-specific quality improvement committee.
  - (9) A description of programs to conduct or promote public education specific to stroke.
- (d) The EMS Authority shall, within 30 days of receiving a request for approval, notify the requesting local EMS agency in writing of approval or disapproval of its

Stroke Critical Care System Plan. If the Stroke Critical Care System Plan is disapproved, the response shall include the reason(s) for the disapproval and any required corrective action items.

(e) The local EMS agency shall provide an amended plan to the EMS Authority within 60 days of receipt of the disapproval letter.

(f) The local EMS agency currently operating a stroke critical care system implemented before the effective date of these regulations, shall submit to the EMS Authority a Stroke Critical Care System Plan as an addendum to its next annual EMS plan update, or within 180 days of the effective date of these regulations, whichever comes first.

(g) Any stroke center designated by the local EMS agency before implementation of these regulations may continue to operate. Before re-designation by the local EMS agency at the next regular interval, stroke centers shall be re-evaluated to meet the criteria established in these regulations.

(h) No health care facility shall advertise in any manner or otherwise hold itself out to be affiliated with a stroke critical care system or a stroke center unless they have been designated by the local EMS agency, in accordance with this chapter.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.105, 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.105, 1797.173, 1797.176, 1797.220, 1797.250, 1798.170, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100270.221. Stroke Critical Care System Plan Updates**

(a) The local EMS agency shall submit an annual update of its Stroke Critical Care System Plan, as part of its annual EMS plan submittal, which shall include, at a minimum, all the following:

(1) Any changes in a stroke critical care system since submission of the prior annual plan update or the Stroke Critical Care System Plan addendum.

(2) The status of the Stroke Critical Care System Plan goals and objectives.

(3) Stroke critical care system performance improvement activities.

(4) The progress on addressing action items and recommendations provided by the EMS Authority within the Stroke Critical Care System Plan or status report approval letter, if applicable.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, 1797.254, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.176, 1797.220, 1797.222, 1797.250, 1798.170, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

## **ARTICLE 3. PREHOSPITAL STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

### **§ 100270.222. EMS Personnel and Early Recognition**

- (a) The local EMS agency shall establish prehospital care protocols related to the early recognition, assessment, treatment, and transport of stroke patients for prehospital emergency medical care personnel as determined by the local EMS agency.
- (b) The local EMS agency shall require the use of a validated prehospital stroke-screening algorithm for early recognition and assessment.
- (c) The local EMS agency's protocols for the use of online medical direction shall be used to determine the most appropriate stroke center to transport a patient in cases of confusing or complex findings.
- (d) The prehospital treatment policies for stroke-specific basic life support (BLS), advanced life support (ALS), and limited advanced life support (LALS) shall be developed according to the scope of practice and local accreditation.
- (e) Notification of prehospital findings of suspected stroke patients shall be communicated in advance of the arrival to the stroke centers according to the local EMS agency's Stroke Critical Care System Plan.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.92, 1797.103, 1797.176, 1797.189, 1797.206, 1797.214, 1797.220, 1798.150, and 1798.170, Health and Safety Code.

## **ARTICLE 4. HOSPITAL STROKE CARE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIONS**

### **§ 100270.223. Comprehensive Stroke Care Centers**

- (a) Hospitals designated as a comprehensive stroke center by the local EMS agency shall meet the following minimum criteria:
  - (1) Satisfy all the requirements of a thrombectomy-capable and primary stroke center as provided in this chapter.
  - (2) Neuro-endovascular diagnostic and therapeutic procedures available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
  - (3) Advanced imaging, available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year, which shall include but not be limited to:
    - (A) All imaging requirements for thrombectomy-capable centers.

(B) Diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) perfusion imaging.

(4) Transcranial Doppler (TCD) shall be available in a timeframe that is clinically appropriate.

(5) Intensive care unit (ICU) beds with licensed independent practitioners with the expertise and experience to provide neuro-critical care twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days (365) days per year.

(6) Data-driven, continuous quality improvement process including collection and monitoring of standardized performance measures.

(7) A stroke patient research program.

(8) Satisfy all the following staff qualifications:

(A) A neurosurgical team capable of assessing and treating complex stroke and stroke- like syndromes.

(B) A qualified neuro-radiologist, board-certified by the American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology.

(C) If teleradiology is used in image interpretation, all staffing and staff qualification requirements contained in this section shall remain in effect and shall be documented by the hospital.

(D) Written call schedule for attending neurointerventionalist, neurologist, neurosurgeon providing availability twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week.

(9) Provide comprehensive rehabilitation services either on-site or by written transfer agreement with another health care facility licensed to provide such services.

(10) Written transfer agreements with primary stroke centers in the region to accept the transfer of patients with complex strokes when clinically warranted.

(11) A comprehensive stroke center shall at a minimum, provide guidance and continuing stroke-specific medical education to hospitals designated as a primary stroke center with which they have transfer agreements.

(b) Additional requirements may be stipulated by the local EMS agency medical director.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety

Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.224. Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Centers**

(a) Hospitals designated as a thrombectomy-capable stroke center by the local EMS agency shall meet the following minimum criteria:

(1) Satisfy all the requirements of a primary stroke center as provided in this chapter.

(2) The ability to perform mechanical thrombectomy for the treatment of ischemic stroke twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year.

(3) Dedicated neuro-intensive care unit beds to care for acute ischemic stroke patients twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year.

(4) Satisfy all the following staff qualifications:

(A) A qualified physician, board certified by the American Board of Radiology, American osteopathic Board of Radiology, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, or the American osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry, with neuro-interventional angiographic training and skills on staff as deemed by the hospital's credentialing committee.

(B) A qualified neuro-radiologist, board-certified by the American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology.

(C) A qualified vascular neurologist, board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry, or with appropriate education and experience as defined by the hospital credentials committee.

(D) If teleradiology is used in image interpretation, all staffing and staff qualification requirements contained in this section shall remain in effect and shall be documented by the hospital.

(5) The ability to perform advanced imaging twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) Computed tomography angiography (CTA).

(B) Diffusion-weighted MRI or CT Perfusion.



- (C) Catheter angiography.
- (D) Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA).
- (E) And the following modalities available when clinically necessary:
  - (i) Carotid duplex ultrasound.
  - (ii) Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE).
  - (iii) Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE).
- (6) A process to collect and review data regarding adverse patient outcomes following mechanical thrombectomy.
- (7) Written transfer agreement with at least one comprehensive stroke center.
- (b) Additional requirements may be stipulated by the local EMS agency medical director.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.225. Primary Stroke Centers**

- (a) Hospitals designated by the local EMS agency as a primary stroke center shall meet all the following minimum criteria:
  - (1) Adequate staff, equipment, and training to perform rapid evaluation, triage, and treatment for the stroke patient in the emergency department.
  - (2) Standardized stroke care protocol/order set.
  - (3) Stroke diagnosis and treatment capacity twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year.
  - (4) Data-driven, continuous quality improvement process including collection and monitoring of standardized performance measures.
  - (5) Continuing education in stroke care provided for staff physicians, staff nurses, staff allied health personnel, and EMS personnel.
  - (6) Public education on stroke and illness prevention.

(7) A clinical stroke team, available to see in person or via telehealth, a patient identified as a potential acute stroke patient within 15 minutes following the patient's arrival at the hospital's emergency department or within 15 minutes following a diagnosis of a patient's potential acute stroke.

(A) At a minimum, a clinical stroke team shall consist of:

(i) A neurologist, neurosurgeon, interventional neuro-radiologist, or emergency physician who is board certified or board eligible in neurology, neurosurgery, endovascular neurosurgical radiology, or other board-certified physician with sufficient experience and expertise in managing patients with acute cerebral vascular disease as determined by the hospital credentials committee.

(ii) A registered nurse, physician assistant or nurse practitioner capable of caring for acute stroke patients that has been designated by the hospital who may serve as a stroke program manager.

(8) Written policies and procedures for stroke services which shall include written protocols and standardized orders for the emergency care of stroke patients. These policies and procedures shall be reviewed at least every three (3) years, revised as needed, and implemented.

(9) Data-driven, continuous quality improvement process including collection and monitoring of standardized performance measures.

(10) Neuro-imaging services capability that is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred sixty-five (365) days per year, such that imaging shall be initiated within twenty-five (25) minutes following emergency department arrival.

(11) CT scanning or equivalent neuro-imaging shall be initiated within twenty-five (25) minutes following emergency department arrival.

(12) Other imaging shall be available within a clinically appropriate timeframe and shall, at a minimum, include:

(A) MRI.

(B) CTA and / or Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA).

(C) TEE or TTE.

(13) Interpretation of the imaging.

(A) If teleradiology is used in image interpretation, all staffing and staff qualification

requirements contained in this section shall remain in effect and shall be documented by the hospital.

(B) Neuro-imaging studies shall be reviewed by a physician with appropriate expertise, such as a board-certified radiologist, board-certified neurologist, a board-certified neurosurgeon, or residents who interpret such studies as part of their training in ACGME-approved radiology, neurology, or neurosurgery training program within forty-five (45) minutes of emergency department arrival.

(i) For the purpose of this subsection, a qualified radiologist shall be board certified by the American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology.

(ii) For the purpose of this subsection, a qualified neurologist shall be board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry.

(iii) For the purpose of this subsection, a qualified neurosurgeon shall be board certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery.

(14) Laboratory services capability that is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year, such that services may be performed within forty-five (45) minutes following emergency department arrival.

(15) Neurosurgical services shall be available, including operating room availability, either directly or under an agreement with a thrombectomy-capable, comprehensive or other stroke center with neurosurgical services, within two (2) hours following the arrival of acute stroke patients to the primary stroke center.

(16) Acute care rehabilitation services.

(17) Transfer arrangements with one or more higher level of care centers when clinically warranted or for neurosurgical emergencies.

(18) There shall be a stroke medical director of a primary stroke center, who may also serve as a physician member of a stroke team, who is board-certified in neurology or neurosurgery or another board-certified physician with sufficient experience and expertise dealing with cerebral vascular disease as determined by the hospital credentials committee.

(b) Additional requirements may be stipulated by the local EMS agency medical director.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, 1797.254, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.102, 1797.103, 1797.104, 1797.176, and 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, 1797.250, 1798.170, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

## **§ 100270.226. Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals**

(a) Hospitals designated by the local EMS agency as an acute stroke ready hospital shall meet all the following minimum criteria:

(1) A clinical stroke team available to see, in person or via telehealth, a patient identified as a potential acute stroke patient within twenty (20) minutes following the patient's arrival at the hospital's emergency department.

(2) Written policies and procedures for emergency department stroke services that are reviewed, revised as needed, and implemented at least every three (3) years.

(3) Emergency department policies and procedures shall include written protocols and standardized orders for the emergency care of stroke patients.

(4) Data-driven, continuous quality improvement process including collection and monitoring of standardized performance measures.

(5) Neuro-imaging services capability that is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year, such that imaging shall be performed and reviewed by a physician within forty-five (45) minutes following emergency department arrival.

(6) Neuro-imaging services shall, at a minimum, include CT or MRI, or both.

(7) Interpretation of the imaging.

(A) If teleradiology is used in image interpretation, all staffing and staff qualification requirements contained in this section shall remain in effect and shall be documented by the hospital.

(B) Neuro-imaging studies shall be reviewed by a physician with appropriate expertise, such as a board-certified radiologist, board-certified neurologist, a board-certified neurosurgeon, or residents who interpret such studies as part of their training in ACGME-approved radiology, neurology, or neurosurgery training program within forty-five (45) minutes of emergency department arrival.

(i) For the purpose of this subsection, a qualified radiologist shall be board-certified by the American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology.

(ii) For the purpose of this subsection, a qualified neurologist shall be board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry.

(iii) For the purpose of this subsection, a qualified neurosurgeon shall be board-

certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery.

(8) Laboratory services shall, at a minimum, include blood testing, electrocardiography and x-ray services, and be available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year, and able to be completed and reviewed by physician within sixty (60) minutes following emergency department arrival.

(9) Neurosurgical services shall be available, including operating room availability, either directly or under an agreement with a thrombectomy-capable, primary or comprehensive stroke center, within three (3) hours following the arrival of acute stroke patients to an acute stroke-ready hospital.

(10) Provide IV thrombolytic treatment and have transfer arrangements with one or more thrombectomy-capable, primary or comprehensive stroke center(s) that facilitate the transfer of patients with strokes to the stroke center(s) for care when clinically warranted.

(11) There shall be a medical director of an acute stroke-ready hospital, who may also serve as a member of a stroke team, who is a physician or advanced practice nurse who maintains at least four (4) hours per year of educational time in cerebrovascular disease;

(12) Clinical stroke team for an acute stroke-ready hospital at a minimum shall consist of a nurse and a physician with training and expertise in acute stroke care.

(b) Additional requirements may be stipulated by the local EMS agency medical director.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100270.227. EMS Receiving Hospitals (Non-designated for Stroke Critical Care Services)**

(a) An EMS receiving hospital that is not designated for stroke critical care services shall do the following, at a minimum and in cooperation with stroke receiving centers and the local EMS agency in their jurisdictions:

(1) Participate in the local EMS agency's quality improvement system, including data submission as determined by the local EMS agency medical director.

(2) Participate in the inter-facility transfer agreements to ensure access to a stroke critical care system for a potential stroke patient.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.88, 1797.103, 1797.176, 1797.220, 1798.100, 1798.150, 1798.170, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

## **ARTICLE 5. DATA MANAGEMENT, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND EVALUATION**

### **§ 100270.228. Data Management Requirements**

- (a) The local EMS agency shall implement a standardized data collection and reporting process for stroke critical care systems.
- (b) The system shall include the collection of both prehospital and hospital patient care data, as determined by the local EMS agency.
- (c) The prehospital stroke patient care elements shall be compliant with the most current version of the California EMS Information Systems (CEMSIS) database and the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) database.
- (d) The hospital stroke patient care elements shall be consistent with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Program Resource Guide, dated October 24, 2016, which is hereby incorporated by reference.
- (e) All hospitals that receive stroke patients via EMS shall participate in the local EMS agency data collection process in accordance with local EMS agency policies and procedures.
- (f) The prehospital care record and the hospital data elements shall be collected and submitted by the local EMS agency, and subsequently to the EMS Authority, on no less than a quarterly basis.

Note: Authority cited: Sections. 1797.107, 1797.176, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1797.102, 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, 1797.227, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.

### **§ 100270.229. Quality Improvement and Evaluation Process**

- (a) Each stroke critical care system shall have a quality improvement process that shall include, at a minimum:
  - (1) Evaluation of program structure, process, and outcome.
  - (2) Review of stroke-related deaths, major complications, and transfers.
  - (3) A multidisciplinary Stroke Quality Improvement Committee, including both prehospital and hospital members.

(4) Participation in the QI process by all designated stroke centers and prehospital providers involved in the stroke critical care system.

(5) Evaluation of regional integration of stroke patient movement.

(6) Participation in the stroke data management system.

(7) Compliance with the California Evidence Code, Section 1157.7 to ensure confidentiality, and a disclosure-protected review of selected stroke cases.

(b) The local EMS agency shall be responsible for on-going performance evaluation and quality improvement of the stroke critical care system.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.107, 1797.176, 1797.254, and 1798.150, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1797.102, 1797.103, 1797.104, 1797.176, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, 1797.250, 1798.170, and 1798.172, Health and Safety Code.