

Monterey County EMS System Policy



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STROKE CENTER DESIGNATION

I. PURPOSE

To define requirements for designation as a Monterey County Stroke Center for patients transported via the 911 system with positive findings on the Cincinnati Stroke Scale.

II. POLICY

- A. A hospital requesting designation as a Stroke Center shall apply to the Monterey County EMS Agency following the application process outlined in this policy. The applications shall be submitted at least three (3) months prior to the desired date of implementation.
- B. Designation as a Stroke Center shall be made by the Monterey County EMS Agency following a review of the application and after ensuring that all designation criteria are met.
- C. Monterey County Stroke Centers shall accept all ambulance transported patients with positive BE FAST Stroke Scale findings except in situations of internal disaster.
- D. The Stroke Center shall activate their internal stroke response upon notification that a patient with positive BE FAST Stroke Scale findings will be, or is, en route to their facility.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for designation as a Stroke Center for Monterey County, an interested hospital shall:

- A. Submit an application packet that contains all required documentation outlined in the Stroke Center application checklist.
- B. Submit applicable designation fees to cover initial and ongoing Monterey County EMS Agency costs to support the stroke program.
 - 1. Stroke Center Application Fee: A stroke center application fee will be established. This fee will cover the costs associated with the designation process. These costs may include contract costs for plan development, Requests for Proposal development, review of proposals, out of area site team costs, legal reviews and agency costs in excess of the costs associated with the day to day stroke system regulation. The stroke center application fee will be assessed for hospitals applying for stroke center designation. Fees paid that are in excess of actual costs will be returned to applicants.
 - 2. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors will establish a stroke center annual fee. This fee covers the cost of monitoring the operation of the stroke system in compliance with Monterey County policies. The fee will be based on the time requirements of the stroke system medical director, stroke system coordinator,

and other staff activity dedicated to stroke issues as well as associated overhead and program support costs.

3. Monterey County EMS Agency will provide the designated stroke centers written notice of any increase in the designated fee at least 180 days (6 months) prior to the effective date of the increase with an explanation for the increase and the basis on which it was calculated.
- C. Develop agreements with other Monterey County hospitals to accept any stroke patients from those facilities. A copy of these agreements shall be included in the application packet.

IV. DESIGNATION CRITERIA

- A. Current California licensure as an acute care facility providing Basic or Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services.
- B. Ability to enter into a written agreement with Monterey County identifying Stroke Center and Monterey County EMS Agency roles and responsibilities.
- C. Received, and maintains current certification as a Primary Stroke Center, a Comprehensive Stroke Center, or a Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center by the Joint Commission, the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), or Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc (DNV).
- D. Appropriate internal (hospital) policies including:
 1. Designation of the Stroke Center Medical Director and Stroke Center Nurse Program Manager.
 2. Staff and physician coverage.
 - a) Availability requirements for timely staff and physician response upon notification or arrival of a stroke patient to the ED.
 3. Interfacility transfer policies, protocols, and agreements.
 4. Collection of data and a process for sharing requested data with the Monterey County EMS Stroke QI committee.
 5. Active and regular participation in Monterey County EMS Stroke QI activities.
 6. Developing and maintaining a hospital Stroke QI Committee.
 7. Participation in the California Stroke Registry.
- E. Performance Improvement Program
 1. Participation in Monterey County EMS Stroke QI Committee with attendance at not less than 80% of the meetings.
 2. Written internal quality improvement plan/program description for stroke patients.
 - a) Plan will include a Community Stroke Reduction Plan including participation in outreach programs to reduce cardiovascular disease and stroke.
 3. Participation in prehospital stroke related educational activities.
- F. Data Collection, Submission and Analysis

1. Participation in a data registry approved by the EMS Medical Director.
2. Participation in Monterey County EMS data collection as mandated by the EMS Medical Director.


V. DESIGNATION

- A. Stroke Center designation will be provided to a hospital following satisfactory review of written documentation and initial site survey by Monterey County EMS staff, and receipt of Stroke Center fees by the Monterey County EMS Agency.
- B. Stroke Center designation period will coincide with the period covered in the written agreement between the Stroke Receiving Center and the County.

VI. BASIS FOR LOSS OF DESIGNATION

- A. Inability to meet and maintain Stroke Center Designation Criteria
- B. Failure to provide required data
- C. Failure to participate in stroke system QI activities
- D. Other criteria determined by the EMS Medical Director upon determination that participation in the stroke program is not in the best interest of the EMS transported patient.

END OF POLICY


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