



Department of Health & Human
Services
Milwaukee County
Emergency Medical Services



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Milwaukee County EMS Code STEMI – Code Stroke Alert Initiative

The Milwaukee County EMS (MC EMS) system administrators, managers and medical directors have been working over the past year with the American Heart Association in their ST segment elevation acute myocardial infarction (STEMI) Mission Lifeline initiative and stroke Get With The Guidelines initiative. As a result of both of these initiatives, MC EMS will be implementing a “Code STEMI and Code Stroke” alerting process beginning Monday November 4, 2013.

The goal of these alerts is to notify the receiving hospital as early as possible of the transport to their facility of a patient with a STEMI or acute stroke with last known well (LKW) time of less than eight (8) hours & a positive (+) Cincinnati Stroke Scale finding (s). This initiative is being implemented so the receiving hospital can implement their STEMI and Stroke care protocols in a timely manner. The alerts will come in the form of a short STAT alert page followed by a full page.

MC EMS processes will be as follows;

Code-STEMI Patients

1.) EMS provider function (s)

- Patients will be assessed per routine medical assessment guidelines
- Upon evaluation of the 12 lead ECG indicating a STEMI or acute myocardial infarction (ZOLL monitor categories 1-5), the EMS crew should immediately notify MC EMS Communications Center that they have a “Code STEMI” and report **only** the following three data points at this time;
 1. patient case number
 2. patient vital signs
 3. receiving hospital and ETA
- Transmit 12 Lead ECG to EMS Communication Center
- Full medical report should not be delivered at this time, but should be reported during medical control physician consultation as usual

2.) MC EMS Communication Center staff function (s)

- Send a “Code STEMI/STROKE” alert page for a “Code STEMI” to the receiving hospital
- Activate the Medical Command Form for the medical control consulting physician
- Medical control physician will complete the Medical Command Form and submit form to communicator when consultation is completed

3.) Receiving hospital function (s):

- Will receive a STAT page with the following language; “Code STEMI, (Med #) has indicated a STEMI patient in the field and will be transporting to your facility. Vitals- BP, Respirations and ETA. (If vital signs are not available from the EMS provider, the phrase “Vitals –will follow” will be used). Complete report will be paged shortly.
- This alert page will allow receiving facility to alert their staff and proceed with hospital protocols
- Medical control physician will no longer call the receiving hospital to relay information on a STEMI patient. Rather, information will be provided in the routine page to the receiving hospital. Medical control physicians may elect to contact the receiving hospital via phone in situations that are unique or need clarification. When these communications occur, they will be done in addition to the page that will be sent by the EMS Communicators.
- Receipt of the initial alert page by the hospitals requires the facility to accept the patient even if the ED goes on diversion prior to receiving the second complete patient page.

Code-Stroke Patients [for patients with (+) Cincinnati Stroke Scale AND LKW (<+)8hrs]

1.) EMS provider function (s)

- Patients will be assessed per routine medical assessment guidelines
- Upon determining that the patient is suffering an acute stroke [defined as LKW < 8 hrs & a positive (+) Cincinnati Stroke Scale], the EMS crew should immediately notify MC EMS Communications Center that they have a “Code Stroke” and report only the following three data points;
 - patient case number
 - patient vital signs
 - receiving hospital and ETA
- Full medical report should not be delivered at this time, but should be reported when complete patient assessment and care has been provided

2.) MC EMS Communication Center staff function (s)

- Send a “Code STEMI/STROKE” alert page for a “Code Stroke” to the receiving hospital [for patients with (+) Cincinnati Stroke Scale AND LKW (<=)8hrs]

3.) Receiving hospital function (s):

- Will receive a stat page with the following language; “Code Stroke (Med #) has indicated a Stroke patient in the field and will be transporting to your facility. Vitals- BP, Respirations and ETA. {If vital signs are not available from the EMS provider, the phrase “Vitals –will follow” will be used}. Complete report will be paged shortly.
- This alert page will allow receiving facility to alert their staff and proceed with hospital protocols

***BLS units will continue to contact receiving hospitals using their current communication processes.

***Communications for patients with s/s of a stroke with a LKW time of greater (>) than 8 hrs will be managed in the routine manner.

Please contact Milwaukee County EMS at 257-6661 if you have any questions.

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