

## Policy 531.20 STEMI Patient Triage and Destination

### Authority

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100144 and 100145

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for determining patient destination for patients suspected of suffering from a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI).

### Definitions

- I) ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI): An acute myocardial infarction with symptoms of cardiac ischemia and ST elevation of 1 mm or more in at least two leads on a 12-lead ECG.
- II) STEMI Alert: A report from prehospital personnel that notifies a STEMI Receiving Center or STEMI Referral Hospital as early as possible that a patient has a specific computer – interpreted Prehospital 12-lead indication STEMI
- III) STEMI Receiving Center (SRC): A hospital in the Tuolumne County EMS Agency region that has an interventional cardiology lab licensed by the Department of Health Services which provides emergency cardiac catheterization 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with an established quality assurance program and a written commitment by the hospital administration supporting the center's interventional cardiology mission for STEMI patients.
- IV) STEMI Referral Hospital: Any hospital in the Tuolumne County EMS Agency region that lacks the availability or continuous availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year cardiac catheterization. These hospitals will have the ability to administer thrombolytics to a STEMI patient. These hospitals will also have written transfer policies for STEMI patients to STEMI Receiving Centers.
- V) STEMI Patients: A symptomatic patient with a 12-lead ECG interpretation is "ACUTE MI" or "ACUTE INFARCT"
- VI) Prehospital Care Provider: The ambulance service provider, fire service agency or any other emergency service provider authorized by TCEMSA.
- VII) ALS: Advanced Life Support, as defined in Section 1797.52, Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

### Policy

- I) All STEMI Patients within the Tuolumne County shall be transported to an appropriate receiving facility as delineated in this policy.
- II) All patients suffering a STEMI or suspected STEMI shall be assessed and treated by pre-hospital EMS personnel in accordance with Tuolumne County EMS Treatment Guidelines.
- III) Destinations for STEMI Patients:
  - A) STEMI patients shall be transport to the nearest STEMI Receiving Center.
  - B) Consider rendezvous with air medical support if transport time to PCI Center is greater than 60 minutes. DO NOT DELAY TRANSPORT.
- IV) Triage
  - A) Perform general patient management.
  - B) Treat life-threatening problems with airway, breathing, and circulation.
  - C) Treat dysrhythmia. Initiate CPR and defibrillation if necessary.
  - D) Patients with chest pain or symptoms suggestive of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) shall have a 12-lead ECG performed.
  - E) 12-lead ECG's showing suspected STEMI will be transmitted to SRC by Prehospital care provider's 12-lead ECG transmission device as soon as possible.

- F) Exceptions include patients who are not cooperative with the procedure or patients in whom the need for critical resuscitative measures preclude performance of 12-lead ECG.
  - G) Paramedic shall review the 12-lead ECG tracing in all instances to assure that little or no artifact exist (steady baseline, lack of other electrical interference, complete complexes present in all 12 leads). Repeat ECG may be necessary to obtain an accurate tracing.
  - H) If computerized interpretation of accurately performed 12-lead ECG indicates either \*\*\*Acute MI\*\*\* or \*\*\*Acute MI Suspected\*\*\* or \*\*\*STEMI\*\*\*, the patient qualifies as a candidate for transport to a STEMI Receiving Center. Patients without these findings shall be transported to the closest appropriate facility.
- V) Special Considerations
- A) The following patients should be transported to the closest appropriate receiving facility:
  - B) Any unstable or unmanageable airway as evidenced by the inability to ventilate the patient via bag valve mask device with or without an ALS airway;
  - C) Any patient with CPR in progress or with rapidly deteriorating vital signs to the degree that CPR will likely be initiated during transport.
- VI) STEMI Alert/Patient Notification:
- A) The STEMI Alert should contain the following information:
    - 1) Situation
      - a) Identification of call as a “STEMI Alert”
      - b) Estimated time of arrival in \_\_\_\_ minutes for STEMI.
      - c) Patient age and gender
      - d) Confirm ECG states \*\*\*ACUTE MI\*\*\* or \*\*\*ACUTE MI SUSPECTED\*\*\* or \*\*\*STEMI\*\*\*
      - e) Any urgent patient concerns
    - 2) Background
      - a) Patient presenting complaint including any duration and presence/absence of chest pain, pressure, jaw pain or SOB
      - b) Pertinent past cardiac history including presence of a pacemaker
    - 3) Assessment
      - a) General Impression
      - b) Patient improved or worse since on scene
      - c) Pertinent vital signs and significant abnormal physical examination findings
    - 4) Treatment
      - a) Prehospital treatment given and response to treatment
  - B) When necessary, the Tuolumne County Base Hospital shall serve as on-line medical control for STEMI patients being transported by air or ground ambulance to a PCI center located outside of Tuolumne County.
  - C) The transporting ambulance or air ambulance shall contact the receiving PCI center as soon as possible after transport has been initiated in order to assist the PCI center in determining the appropriate level of activation.
  - D) For those patients being transported to a PCI center in Stanislaus County, the transporting ambulance or air ambulance shall notify the Stanislaus County Control Facility about the STEMI patient from Tuolumne County and the PCI center destination.