

**Hennepin County EMS System
Seven-County Metro Region EMS System
Transport Policy for STEMI Patients
Approved by the Hennepin County EMS Council, October 14, 2004**

I. Purpose:

To provide guidelines to ambulance services in the Seven-County Metropolitan Area for patients identified with acute myocardial infarctions, as evidenced by ST elevation (STEMI's), to receive timely transportation to a Level I Cardiac Care Facility.

II. Policy:

Ambulance crews will transport all patients identified with STEMI's from the scene directly to a Level I Cardiac Care Facility. Patients meeting the EMS provider STEMI/Code AMI criteria listed below should expect to be transported/diverted to one of the designated Level I Cardiac Care Facilities.

Exception: STEMI patients may be transported to a non-Level I hospital if it is located outside of the immediate metropolitan area and if that hospital has in place a written agreement with a Level I Cardiac Care Facility and a documented plan for rapid intervention and timely transfer of these patients.

III. Definitions:

Diversion: The re-direction of an ambulance from the intended receiving facility to an alternate receiving facility due to the condition of the patient and/or the availability of specialized resources at the alternate facility.

Level I Cardiac Care Facilities¹: Hospitals that have committed in writing and have assured the East Metro Prehospital Advisory Committee (EMPAC) and the Hennepin County EMS Advisory Council that all patients with acute myocardial infarctions, as evidenced by ST elevation (STEMI's) will be transferred to a catheterization lab within 60 minutes and have an intervention begun within 90 minutes of arrival to the Emergency Department on a 7/24/365 basis.

Further, these hospitals have assured that they will perform at least 200 procedures per year and that each interventionalist performs at least 75 procedures per year. Finally, they have agreed to no divert status for all STEMI patients.

STEMI Patient: A patient shall be identified as a STEMI patient for the purpose of this policy if they meet all of the inclusion criteria listed below:

¹ Crocco T, Sayre M, Aufderheide T. Prehospital Triage of Chest Pain Patients. In: *Prehospital Emergency Care*, April/June 2002, pp.224-228, 6.

EMS Provider STEMI/Code AMI Inclusion Criteria:

- Patient presents with cardiac symptoms.
- 12-lead findings that are consistent with ST elevation greater than 1 mm in two or more contiguous leads.
- QRS complex is narrower than 0.12 (3 small boxes) seconds, (if wider than 0.12 you are unable to diagnose as STEMI).

IV. Level I Cardiac Center Designation:

Hospitals that wish to be designated as Level I Cardiac Centers, for the purpose of receiving STEMI patients from the Metro EMS system, should provide written assurance of compliance with all the Level I Cardiac Center criteria listed in the definition above.

Hospitals outside the immediate metropolitan area who wish to be considered as an exception to the direct transport policy should provide documentation of agreement with a Level I Cardiac Care Facility and a plan for rapid intervention and timely transfer of these patients.

Hospitals that lie in the East Metro counties of Dakota, Ramsey and Washington should submit all required documentation to the East Metro Prehospital Advisory Committee (EMPAC). Hospitals that lie in the West Metro counties of Anoka, Carver, Hennepin or Scott should submit all required documentation to the Hennepin County EMS Council.

A current list of hospitals that have provided written assurance of compliance with Level I Cardiac Center criteria and those that have documented agreements for care and transfer of STEMI patients to a Level I Cardiac Center may be found in Attachment A.

Attachment A
Seven County Metro Area Hospitals - STEMI Transport Designation
Current as of: January 27, 2005

Twin Cities Metro Area Hospitals with written assurance of Level I Cardiac Center criteria compliance:

- Abbott-Northwestern Hospital
- Fairview-Southdale Hospital
- Fairview-University Hospital, University Campus
- Hennepin County Medical Center
- Mercy Medical Center
- Methodist Hospital
- North Memorial Medical Center
- Regions Hospital
- St. Joseph's Hospital
- United Hospital

Outlying Hospitals with documentation of a written agreement with a Level I Cardiac Center to provide initial evaluation and transfer of STEMI Patients:

- Fairview Ridges (Burnsville)
- Northfield Hospital (Northfield) *
- Regina Hospital (Hastings) *
- Ridgeview Hospital (Waconia)
- St. Francis Medical Center (Shakopee)

Hospitals with no Level I Cardiac Center and preferred transport destination for designated STEMI patients (if documented):

- Children's Hospitals-Minneapolis
- Children's Hospitals-St. Paul
- Fairview-University Hospital, Riverside Campus (transport designated STEMI patients to Fairview-University Hospital, University Campus)
- Lakeview Hospital *
- Queen of Peace Hospital
- St. John's Hospital (transport designated STEMI patients to St. Joseph's Hospital)
- Unity Hospital (transport designated STEMI patients to Mercy Medical Center)
- Woodwinds Hospital (transport designated STEMI patients to St. Joseph's Hospital)

* Indicates hospitals whose Level I Cardiac Center status is unconfirmed.