

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY**



Program Document: **Stroke Receiving Center Designation**
Policy Number: 2529.04

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Signature on File
EMS Medical Director

Signature on File
EMS Administrator

Purpose:

- A. To establish requirements for receiving hospital designation as a Stroke Center in Sacramento County.

Authority:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Definitions:

- A. Primary Stroke Center (PSC): A hospital that treats acute stroke patients and identifies patients who may benefit from transfer to a higher level of care when clinically warranted.
- B. Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center (TCSC): A PSC with the resources and expertise to perform mechanical thrombectomy for the ischemic stroke patient when clinically warranted and provide post-procedural care in a dedicated neurointensive care unit or dedicated intensive care unit beds for complex stroke patients.
- C. Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC): A hospital with specific abilities to receive, diagnose and treat all stroke cases and provide the highest level of care for stroke patients.
- D. Stroke Critical Care System: 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.

Policy:

Stroke Center (SC) Designation

Designation as an SC is open to all receiving hospitals in Sacramento County that can meet the criteria for designation.

A. Application Process:

1. Interested receiving hospitals may apply for SC designation by submitting a complete SC designation application packet to the Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SCEMSA).
2. Submit applicable designation fees to support stroke system of care activities. Payment may be made by centralized regional hospital systems when existing processes for payment are in place by that system.
3. Meet SC designation criteria and contractual requirements.

B. SC Designation Criteria:

Facilities seeking consideration for initial and Stroke Center Designation for Sacramento County shall meet the PSC Designation requirements as defined by California Title 22 Regulations, Division 9, Chapter 6.3. In addition, prospective SC-designated facilities shall meet all supplemental requirements as defined in the designation agreement between SCEMSA and the SC-designated facility. Any facility applying for SC designation in Sacramento County shall provide approved documentation to confirm they meet the minimum requirements.

These requirements include:

1. Certification by The Joint Commission (TJC) as one of the following
 - a. Primary Stroke Center
 - b. Comprehensive Stroke Center
 - c. Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center
 - d. Acute Stroke Ready Hospital
2. Continuous availability of stroke-related resources twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
3. Agree to accept all pre-hospital patients meeting acute stroke triage criteria and all acute stroke patients transferred from other non-SC-designated hospitals.
4. Active participation in/with:
 - a. SCEMSA data collection

- b. SCEMSA quality improvement programs
- c. SCEMSA Stroke Review Committee
- d. Stroke-related EMS education for prehospital providers

C. SC Designation Process and Term:

1. Initial SC designation will be awarded to a hospital following satisfactory review of all evidence to show compliance with this policy and upon completion of an informational site survey conducted by the SCEMSA.
2. All SCs must enter into a written agreement with SCEMSA prior to designation. The written agreement details the specific obligations of all parties responsible for the management of stroke patient care.
3. The SC designation term shall be not more than five (5) years, as specified in the written agreement between the SC and the County.
4. Throughout the designation term, the SC must provide updated certifications when necessary.

D. SC Renewal Process and Term:

1. SCs who maintain compliance with SC designation criteria will be eligible for renewal of designation.
2. Renewal requires maintaining a written agreement and submission of annual designation fees.

E. Loss of Designation:

1. The inability to meet and maintain SC designation as defined in this policy and the written agreement is criteria for loss of designation.