



Stroke

Critical Care System Plan 2023 Annual Update

Prepared By:

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Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
Emergency Medical Services Agency

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY
STROKE CRITICAL CARE SYSTEM PLAN
2023 ANNUAL UPDATE
April 1, 2024**

In accordance with the State of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7.2, Sacramento County submits this Stroke Critical Care System Plan Update.

Stroke Critical Care System Plan

The Stroke Care Committee reviews and evaluates prehospital and hospital care reports of patients who suffered a life-threatening acute stroke. Committee participants include representatives in public and private Advanced Life Support (ALS) transportation, nurses, physicians, and other disciplines. The Stroke Care Committee identifies, through case and data review, areas in need of improvement, implements process improvement and training/education, and recognizes excellence in performance and delivery of care.

2023 Overview

Sacramento County Emergency Medical Service Agency (SCEMSA) continues to improve the quality and accuracy of data reporting to improve Stroke patient care provided at Sacramento County Stroke receiving hospitals. SCEMSA also continues to monitor documentation compliance and trend improvements via quality improvement audits and documentation dashboards for overall system monitoring.

Sacramento County providers transported 128,453 patients to the emergency room in 2023, of which 3,766 were documented in prehospital patient care records as having a primary impression of "Stroke/CVA/TIA." Of the stroke-related transports, over 87% were communicated as "Stroke Alerts" to Sacramento County Stroke Receiving Centers, facilitating the rapid delivery of specialty care upon ambulance arrival. These numbers are reflected in Figure 1.

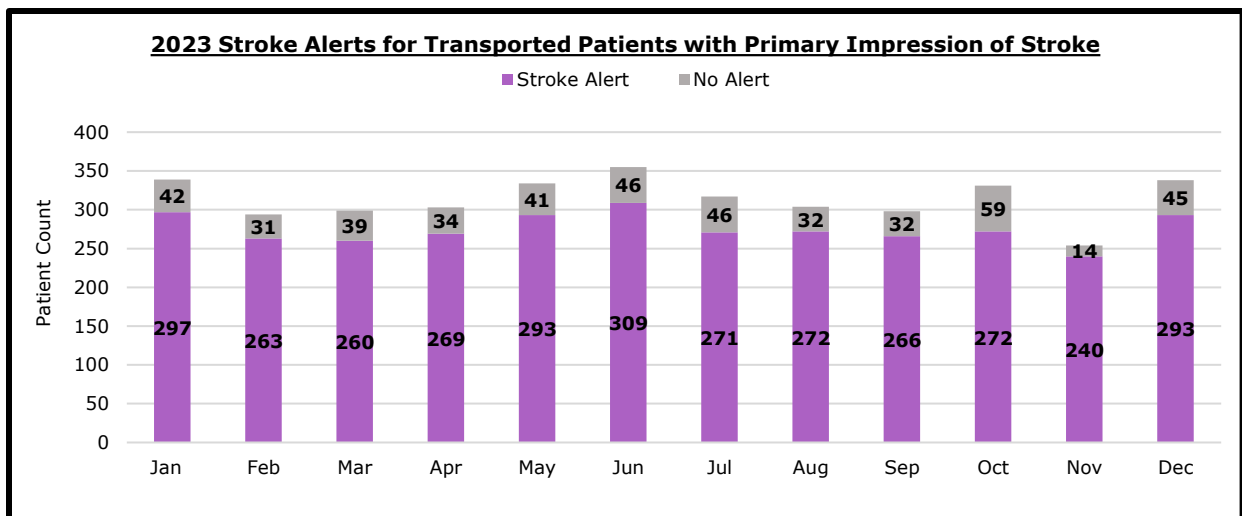


Figure 1

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2023 Update

SCEMSA operates an established Stroke Critical Care System through executed contracts with ten (10) hospitals, eight (8) within Sacramento County, and two (2) within the City of Roseville. The ten (10) hospitals are either designated by the Seirra-Sacramento Valley EMS Agency or are Joint Commission (TJC) accredited. Four (4) of these facilities are designated as Comprehensive Stroke Receiving Centers.

The Stroke Care Committee is a multi-stakeholder group that advises the SCEMSA Medical Director and Medical/Operational Advisory Committee on improving communication, reviewing performance data, and identifying improvement areas. It provides active feedback and potential quality improvement initiatives within our Stroke system. SCEMSA continues expanding its collaboration with EMS providers and Stroke-receiving hospitals by reviewing and analyzing patient care data to effect system changes that improve patient care and stroke incident outcomes in Sacramento.

In 2023, the committee focused largely on the accuracy and standardization of patient outcome data. Stroke receiving facilities are required to submit data from American Heart Association Get with the Guidelines (AHA GWTG) into ImageTrend Patient Registry. SCEMSA Policy #2528 – Stroke System Data Elements was edited to require submission by ninety (90) days past the end of each quarter. Once the data was submitted on a more standardized basis, SCEMSA analyzed the field stroke alerts compared to hospital outcomes to identify areas for system improvement. This comparative analysis will continue in 2024.

Current policies and protocols do not have prehospital providers divert care to Comprehensive Stroke hospitals. Still, SCEMSA continues to evaluate the system needs based on communication, performance data review, and suggested improvement initiatives within our Stroke Community.

Toward the end of 2023, Dr. Kann, SCEMSA Medical Director, and Dr. Kevin Keenan from University of California Davis Medical Center (UCDMC) began collaborating on a large-scale research project to contribute to the comprehensive routing discussion. This study will involve six (6) emergency medical services (EMS) providers in Sacramento County adding a vision, aphasia, neglect (VAN) and Los Angeles Motor Scale (LAMS) assessment for each stroke patient with a positive Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS). During the study, all stroke patients will continue going to the time closest stroke facility per current policy. However, the results of the study will contribute largely to a decision regarding comprehensive routing in Sacramento County.