

Paramedic Prompt Card for Acute Stroke Bypass Protocol

This prompt card provides a quick reference of the *Acute Stroke Protocol* contained in the *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards* (BLS PCS). Please refer to the BLS PCS for the full protocol.

Indications under the Acute Stroke Protocol

Redirect or transport to the **closest** Designated Stroke Centre* will be considered for patients who meet **ALL** of the following:

1. Present with a new onset of at least one of the following symptoms suggestive of the onset of an acute stroke:
 - a. Unilateral arm/leg weakness or drift.
 - b. Slurred speech or inappropriate words or mute.
 - c. Unilateral facial droop.
2. Can be transported to arrive at a Designated Stroke Centre as follows:
 - a. if Endovascular Therapy (EVT) is not regionally available, within 4.5 hours of a clearly determined time of symptom onset or time the patient was last seen in his/her usual state of health; **OR**
 - b. if EVT is regionally available, within 6 hours of a clearly determined time of symptom onset or time the patient was last seen in his/her usual state of health.

*A Designated Stroke Center is a Regional Stroke Centre, District Stroke Centre or a Telestroke Centre regardless of EVT capability.

Contraindications under the Acute Stroke Protocol

ANY of the following exclude a patient from being transported under the Acute Stroke Protocol:

1. CTAS Level 1 and/or uncorrected airway, breathing or circulatory problem.
2. Symptoms of the stroke resolved prior to paramedic arrival or assessment**.
3. Blood sugar <3 mmol/L***.
4. Seizure at onset of symptoms or observed by paramedics.
5. Glasgow Coma Scale <10.
6. Terminally ill or palliative care patient.
7. Duration of out of hospital transport will exceed two hours.

**Patients whose symptoms improve significantly or resolve during transport will continue to be transported to a Designated Stroke Centre.

*** If symptoms persist after correction of blood glucose level, the patient is not contraindicated.

CACC/ACS will authorize the transport once notified of the patient's need for redirect or transport under the Acute Stroke Protocol.