

Middlesex London Paramedic Service - Destination Policy

POTENTIAL STROKE PATIENTS

BACKGROUND

Patients with new onset of stroke symptoms may benefit from specialized treatment that can only be delivered at some emergency departments. Time is a critical element of delivering stroke treatment. This policy is based on the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Paramedic Prompt card.

STROKE CENTRES

- Our Designated Stroke Centre is LHSC University Hospital in London.

INCLUSION / EXCLUSIONS

- As per the Provincial prompt card.

PROTOCOL

Patients who meet the prompt card criteria will be transported directly to LHSC University Hospital in London.

PAEDIATRICS

All paediatric patients (17yrs and under) who meet the provincial prompt card for stroke will be transported directly to the Pediatric Emergency Department.

NOTES:

All patients in the City of London, or patients that are being transported to a City of London Hospital that are indicated for bypass by the provincial prompt card but have an onset of symptom time greater than what is listed on the provincial prompt card, will also be transported to University Hospital in London.

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 or most appropriate 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 within 6 hours of a clearly determined time of symptom onset or the time the patient was last seen in a 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.