

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 362
Subject	Stroke Center Designation	Page 1 of 2
References	California Code of Regulations Title 22, Social Security Division 9, Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Chapter 7.2 Stroke Critical Care System	Effective 12/01/2023

**I. POLICY**

Stroke Centers in the Central California EMS Agency region are designated by the Local EMS Agency according to criteria defined in the State of California Code of Regulations and EMS Agency policies and procedures.

**II. PROCEDURE**

- A. The EMS Agency shall develop and update a plan for the provision of stroke care with the four-county region. This plan shall minimally address the provision of stroke care services, triage mechanisms for patient destination, the number and type of stroke hospitals needed for the EMS System, and the evaluation process.
- B. Any hospital wishing to be designated as a Stroke Center shall notify the EMS Agency, in writing, of its intent to seek designation. This documentation shall include the hospital's justification and anticipated timetable for implementation.
- C. Prior to designation as a stroke center, the hospital shall submit to the EMS Agency:
1. The Application for Stroke Center designation with required documents.
  2. A copy of accreditation as a Stroke Center by The Joint Commission (TJC), the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), or a Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved accrediting body.
  3. Documentation that the Stroke Center Standards in Policy #361 has been met.
- D. Applications shall be reviewed for the compliance with Central California EMS Agency's policies. The Regional Medical Control Committee will be consulted for its recommendation.

Approved By	Revision
EMS Director <b>Daniel J. Lynch</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	
EMS Medical Director <b>Jim Andrews, M.D.</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

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- E. After review of the submitted application and documents, the EMS Agency may conduct a site review of the facility or accept the site review from TJC, HFAP, or CMS as outlined in the Application for Stroke Center Designation.
- F. Upon the completion of a satisfactory review, the EMS Agency will designate the hospital as a Stroke Center based on the accreditation by TJC, HFAP, or CMS.
- G. In the event that the hospital fails to meet the criteria for designation, the hospital will have up to 180 days to correct the deficient areas.
- H. Upon the satisfactory completion of the second evaluation, the EMS Agency will authorize full designation of the Stroke Center.
- I. If the second evaluation is unsatisfactory, the EMS Agency will deny designation. Once deficiencies are completed, reapplication may occur following the procedure outlined in this section.
- J. The hospital requesting designation and the EMS Agency will enter into a contract for designation of the stroke center.

### III. PROCEDURE FOR RE-EVALUATION OF A STROKE CENTER'S STATUS

- A. The EMS Agency shall evaluate the designated Stroke Center's status every three years for contractual compliance and compliance with local policy and the TJC, HFAP, or CMS accrediting requirements.
- B. Designated Stroke Centers shall maintain accreditation as a stroke center with TJC, HFAP, or CMS. Stroke Centers shall submit to the EMS Agency a copy of the re-accreditation from TJC, HFAP, or CMS every three years.

### IV. PROCEDURE FOR DE-DESIGNATION

- A. Failure by a hospital to comply with State, Local, TJC, HFAP, or CMS stroke center requirements or recommendations by a site survey teams approved by the EMS Agency, TJC, HFAP, or CMS will result in forfeiture of the stroke designation.
- B. Failure for a hospital to provide an adequate quality of care, as identified through medical audit and PI process, will result in forfeiture of their EMS Agency stroke designation.