

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 361 Page 1 of 2
Subject Stroke Center Standards	
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

A stroke center is a licensed hospital in the State of California, accredited by The Joint Committee (TJC), the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), or a Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved accrediting body, which has been designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center, Primary Stroke Center, or Acute Stroke Ready Hospital by the Central California EMS Agency (EMS Agency).

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Comprehensive Stroke Center is a hospital with specific abilities to diagnose and treat all complex stroke cases and provide the highest level of care for stroke patients.
- B. Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center is a primary stroke center with the ability to perform mechanical thrombectomy for the ischemic stroke patient.
- C. Primary Stroke Center is a hospital that stabilizes and treats acute stroke patients, providing initial acute care, and may transfer to one or more higher level of care centers when clinically warranted.
- D. Acute Stroke Ready Hospital is a hospital able to provide the minimum level of critical care services for stroke patients in the emergency department, and paired with one or more hospitals with a higher level of stroke services.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. All stroke centers shall be certified as a Stroke Center by TJC, HFAP, or CMS prior to designation by the Local EMS Agency.

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

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- B. Stroke centers shall achieve and maintain, at all times, the standards required of its designation in accordance with TJC, HFAP, CMS, the State of California, and EMS Agency policies and procedures.
- C. A designated stroke center for the EMS Region shall meet and maintain the Stroke Center Standards attached to this policy.
- D. Designated stroke centers shall implement and maintain an EMS Agency approved stroke data collection program. Stroke Centers will provide stroke data to the EMS Agency as required by EMS Policy #363 – Stroke Critical Care System Monitoring/Data Management.
- E. Designated stroke centers shall have a written agreement with the EMS Agency.
- F. Designated stroke centers shall have written transfer agreements with hospitals to accept or transfer patients needing stroke treatment.