



# McLean County Area EMS System

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Transporting Agencies

**From:** Dylan Ferguson, Paramedic, B.S., L.I.  
Director

**Date:** 06/02/2016

**Subject:** **Hospital Destinations**

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There have been some questions raised in recent days regarding hospital destination choices, specifically in regards to stroke patients as there appears to be some confusion in regards to the new state administrative rules for stroke patients. I would like to take this time to reiterate the systems hospital destination policy. Nothing has changed as far as our local system is concerned in destination of patients.

Our standing policy has always been that patient preference is the primary driver of hospital destination. Furthermore, due to the close proximity of both OSF St. Joseph Medical Center and Advocate Bromenn Medical Center both of these facilities are to be treated as equidistant from any geographical point within the McLean County Area EMS System.

As with all policies there are a couple of exceptions. The first relates to a patient, healthcare provider, or healthcare power of attorney not being present or unable to make a decision. In these instances the patient will be transported to the geographically closest appropriate facility.

Per IDPH Administrative Code 515.Appendix C a patient meeting trauma criteria will be transported to a trauma center so long as it does not increase the transport time beyond 30 minutes of what it would have taken to transport to a community hospital. Once again ABMC and OSF SJMC are considered equidistant when applying this policy.

The last exception to this policy is in regards to confirmed STEMI patients. BLS/ILS/ALS transport providers should be familiar with the STEMI patient decision tree in choosing destination choice for STEMI patients to ensure they are transported to a PCI center as soon as possible.

Providers who need to review those decision trees can view them here  
BLS-- <http://mcleancountyems.org/documents/UPDATEDBLSSTEMI.pdf>  
ALS-- <http://mcleancountyems.org/documents/UPDATEDALSSTEMI.pdf>

There have been some misunderstandings in regards to hospital designation for stroke care, and I want to take just a moment to clarify the current status for all system hospitals. There are multiple accrediting bodies for



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hospitals including but certainly not limited to AHA (American Heart Association), CMS(Center for Medicare Services), TJC (The Joint Commission), DNV (Det Norske Veritas), and IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health)

The designations below are those that are conferred by the Illinois Department of Public Health and are the only ones that should even relatively be considered by EMS system providers.

**Advocate Bromenn Medical Center: Primary Stroke Center**

**OSF St. Joseph Medical Center: Primary Stroke Center**

**Advocate Eureka Hospital: Emergent Stroke Ready Hospital**

**Dr. John Warner Hospital: Emergent Stroke Ready Hospital**

I assure you that in the future should there be any changes to a system policy (none are currently planned) that information will be shared to all agencies from the EMS System Office. Providers are reminded that if they have questions the office stands ready to assist you with answers to those questions. In addition the system website is available 24/7 with up to date information about what is going on within the system.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this memo or questions about the new state stroke rules please contact us in the office and we would be happy to help.

**Yours in EMS,**

Dylan Ferguson  
Director  
MCAEMS