



To: All EMS Agencies
From: Erie County Medical Center Corporation
Re: Stroke Patient Notification
Date: April 28, 2009

**ERIE COUNTY
MEDICAL CENTER
HEALTHCARE
NETWORK**

The Erie County Medical Center Corporation is pleased to announce our designation as a "Stroke Center", effective midnight on May 1, 2009. EMS is an intricate piece of our stroke team and essential to improving outcomes for stroke patients.

When transporting possible stroke patients to ECMC's Stroke Center, we ask that you follow all appropriate Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) protocols.

The Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS) is an essential component of stroke recognition and would like to take this opportunity to review the CPSS:

Facial Droop:

Normal: both sides of face move equally
Abnormal: one side of face does not move at all

Arm Drift:

Normal: both arms move equally or not at all
Abnormal: one arm drifts compared to the other

Speech:

Normal: patient uses correct words with no slurring
Abnormal: slurred or inappropriate words or mute

If a patient presents with acute stroke symptoms and **at least one abnormal finding** using the CPSS, please call ECMC's medical command line at (716) 898-4888 during patient transport and speak with the medical command physician. Early notification will provide maximum opportunity for our stroke team to prepare for arrival of the patient.

Once you have arrived at ECMC, please **bypass triage and proceed directly to the emergency physician's work station in the department.**

CME Opportunity:

Please join Dr. Michael Meyer, Clinical Director of Neurology at ECMC on **Saturday May 2nd and Saturday, May 9th at 8AM in the ECMC Emergency Department Conference Room** for a one-hour review of stroke cases. **Refreshments will be served!**

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to contact Scott Wander, EMS Director at (716) 898-3600.

Thank you for your time and cooperation with this important initiative.

462 Grider Street
Buffalo, New York
14215
716.898.3000
www.ecmc.edu

Erie County Medical Center
Erie County Home
Family Health Centers
Cleve-Hill
Egbertsville
Affiliated Health Centers
Dr. Matt Gajewski
Human Services Center