

## SUSPECTED STROKE

03/2011

Stroke = a sudden change in brain function, due either to hemorrhage or vascular occlusion (ischemia). Treatment may be available: consider stroke a medical emergency. In addition to the usual History and Physical the following should be performed.

Stroke Center = Stroke Receiving Facility or Primary Stroke Center, per guidance of agency Medical Director.

1. History:
  - a. Time last seen normal?
2. Exam:
  - a. Stroke Scale
    - i. Abnormal speech?
    - ii. Facial droop on one side with attempted grimace?
    - iii. Arm drifts down or drops on one side when asked to hold them out?
3. Glucometer:
  - a. Check Blood glucose.
4. Treatment:
  - a. Supplemental **O<sub>2</sub>**.
  - b. Correct hypo-glycemia (IV **Dextrose** 50 g.)
5. Triage:
  - a. Recommend transport of patients with any positive stroke scale finding to an appropriate Stroke Center.

### Contact Medical Control:

6. Contact Stroke Center if patient presents with any positive stroke scale finding and wants transport to a Stroke Center.

### Considerations:

1. Unstable patients to closest appropriate hospital as per selection of Initial Hospital/Patient Triage Protocol.
2. Give stable patients with physical exam findings as above the option of transport to a Stroke Center.
3. Do not transport patients to a Stroke Center without their permission.
4. Do not transport patients without signs as above to a Stroke Center, unless that is their desired destination.