STROKE Is an Emergency

ACT FAST!

Rapid intervention is crucial to the treatment of stroke

- Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability[1]
- The longer a stroke goes untreated, the greater the likelihood of permanent neurologic damage[2]

EMS are critical in the management of suspected stroke[3]

Rapid stroke assessment and appropriate action can reduce dangerous delays in treatment.

Guidelines for EMS Management of Patients With Suspected Stroke[4,5]

On Scene	In Transit	
☐ Manage CABs: chest compressions, airway, breathing—give oxygen, if needed	☐ Rapid transport to closest facility capable of treating stroke*	☐ Check and record blood glucose to assess for hypoglycemia
☐ Perform prehospital stroke assessment	☐ Bring witness, family member, or caregiver, if possible	☐ Check and record blood pressure
☐ Establish and record exact time when patient last seen normal	☐ Alert receiving emergency department	☐ Establish cardiac monitoring and IV access, if possible

*EMS bypass of hospitals without stroke resources supported by guidelines if a stroke center is within reasonable transport range.[4]

Make a difference in stroke—know the signs and symptoms essential to rapid diagnosis and treatment[6,7]

References: 1. Rosamond W, Flegal K, Furie K, et al. Heart disease and stroke statistics—2008 update: a report from the American Heart Association Statistics Committee and Stroke Statistics Subcommittee. *Circulation.* 2008;117(4):e25-e146. http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/full/117/4/e25. Accessed March 6, 2008. **2.** Saver JL. Time is brain—quantified. *Stroke.* 2006;37(1):263-266. **3.** 2005 American Heart Association guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiovascular care. Part 9: Adult stroke. *Circulation.* 2005;112:IV111-IV120. **4.** Adams HP Jr, del Zoppo G, Alberts MJ, et al. Guidelines for the early management of adults with ischemic stroke. *Stroke.* 2007;38(5):1655-1711. **5.** Field JM, Hazinski MF, Sayre MR, et al. Part 1: Executive Summary. 2010 American Heart Association guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiovascular care. *Circulation.* 2010;122(18 suppl 3):S640-S656. **6.** Kothari RU, Pancioli A, Liu T, Brott T, Broderick J. Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale: reproducibility and validity. *Ann Emerg Med.* 1999;33(4):373-378. **7.** Kidwell CS, Starkman S, Eckstein M, Weems K, Saver JL. Identifying stroke in the field: prospective validation of the Los Angeles prehospital stroke screen (LAPSS). *Stroke.* 2000;31(1):71-76.

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