



Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service

Division of Operations

Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services

MIEMSS DIRECTION: TRANSPORT OF STROKE PATIENTS WITH HIGH LAMS SCORE

The State EMS Medical Director recently updated direction to all EMS providers that stroke patients with high LAMS scores should be transported directly to either a comprehensive stroke center (**CSC**) or a thrombectomy-capable primary stroke center (**TCPSC**).

What this means for clinicians in Montgomery County:

Both Shady Grove and Suburban are **TCPSCs**. The expectation is that any eligible stroke patient treated by Montgomery County clinicians will be considered for transport to a **CSC** or **TCPSC**. **Barring extraordinary circumstances that arise from your clinical judgement, stroke patients with a positive Cincinnati or posterior cerebellar stroke assessment AND a LAMS of 4 or greater AND a last known well time within 22 hours should be transported to a TCPSC or CSC.**

This destination decision is very similar to the process used for trauma patients. Once the patient meets the criteria, they should be transported to the specialty center unless there is a clear and compelling reason to divert to a closer non-specialty center.

Montgomery County EMS clinicians are empowered to transport their patients to the closest **CSC** or **TCPSC**. In addition to the in-state facilities listed in the MIEMSS memo, MEDSTAR Washington Hospital Center, Georgetown University Hospital and George Washington University Hospital are all **CSCs** and can be considered for patient transport.

Questions may be referred via the chain of command to the EMS Battalion Chief.