

Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency
EMS System Policies and Procedures

Policy: ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patient Destination # 531.20

Creation Date: 08-27-09 Revision

Medical Director: _____

Date: 09-03-2015, 05-21-2021

EMS Coordinator: _____

Review Date: 05-2026

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100144 and 100145

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for determining patient destination for patients suspected of suffering from a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI).

III. DEFINITIONS

ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI): An acute myocardial infarction with symptoms of cardiac ischemia and ST elevation of 1 mm or more in at least two contiguous leads on a 12-lead ECG.

Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) Center: A facility licensed for cardiac catheterization and cardiovascular surgery by the Department of Health Services License and Certification Division.

STEMI Patients: Symptomatic patients with a 12-lead ECG interpretation is "ACUTE MI" or "ACUTE INFARCT"

IV. POLICY

- A. All STEMI Patients within the Tuolumne County shall be transported to an appropriate receiving facility as delineated in this policy.
- B. All patients suffering a STEMI or suspected STEMI shall be assessed and treated by pre-hospital EMS personnel in accordance with Tuolumne County EMS Treatment Guidelines.
- C. Destinations for STEMI Patients:
 1. STEMI patients shall be transported to a PCI Center if transport time to that facility minus transport time to the closest hospital is less than 40 minutes, bypassing all other receiving facilities.
 2. If able, contact Base Hospital to assist with destination decision.
 3. Transport to the closest hospital in all other cases.
 4. Consider rendezvous with air medical support if transport time to PCI Center is greater than 60 minutes. DO NOT DELAY TRANSPORT.

D. Special Considerations:

1. The following patients should be transported to the closest appropriate receiving facility:
 - a. Any unstable or unmanageable airway as evidenced by the inability to ventilate the patient via bag valve mask device with or without an ALS airway;
 - b. Any patient with CPR in progress or with rapidly deteriorating vital signs to the degree that CPR will likely be initiated during transport.

E. PCI Center Notifications:

1. When necessary, the Tuolumne County Control Facility shall serve as on-line medical control for STEMI patients being transported by air or ground ambulance to a PCI center located outside of Tuolumne County.
2. The transporting ambulance or air ambulance shall make contact with the receiving PCI center as soon as possible after transport has been initiated in order to assist the PCI center in determining the appropriate level of activation.
 - a. For those patients being transported to a PCI center in Stanislaus County, the transporting ambulance or air ambulance shall notify the Stanislaus County Control Facility about the STEMI patient from Tuolumne County and the PCI center destination.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. Perform general patient management.
- B. Treat life-threatening problems with airway, breathing, and circulation.
- C. Treat dysrhythmia. Initiate CPR and defibrillation if necessary.
- D. Obtain and label a 12-lead ECG
 1. Patient name
 2. Date and time
 3. Patient date of birth
- E. If able, transmit the ECG to receiving facility as soon as possible.
- F. Complete FIBRINOLYTIC CHECKLIST if time permits. DO NOT DELAY TREATMENT OR TRANSPORT.
- G. If patient has contraindications to fibrinolytic therapy, contact Base Hospital Physician for destination decision.

VI. TRAINING

- A. All Tuolumne County Accredited Paramedic shall receive additional training on the following topics:
 1. 12 lead EKG lead placement & 12 lead EKG acquisition
 2. Basic 12 lead EKG interpretation
 3. Fibrinolytic Checklist
 - a. fibrinolytic therapy indications & contraindications