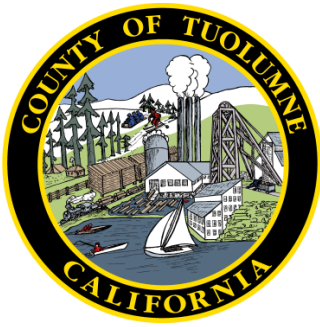




Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency

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July 19, 2023

To: All Tuolumne County First Responders, Public Safety Personnel, Fire Department Personnel, EMS Personnel, Emergency Department Staff

From: Kimberly Freeman, MD, MBA, Public Health Officer, EMS Medical Director

Re: Pre-hospital Stroke Patient Destination

Tuolumne County EMS Agency has been working with Doctor's Medical Center to accept acute stroke patients from the prehospital setting.

While TCEMSA Policy is being developed and agreements being processed, Tuolumne County accredited paramedics may contact the base hospital physician for base orders to transport the patient to the nearest Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) if they encounter a suspected acute stroke patient with a positive VAN scale and:

- Transport to the CSC will not take the patient out of the 4.5-hour window for thrombolytic therapy from onset of symptoms or last known well time (LKWT)
 - Current CT turnaround at Adventist Health Sonora (AHS) is 45-minutes, so must arrive by 3 hours 45 min since LKWT at AHS.
 - Acute symptom or symptom change are less than 24 hours since LKWT.
- Patient is amenable to intervention.
 - No "comfort measures only" POLST

Transport to the nearest emergency department if:

- The patient is VAN negative, the patient will be transported to the nearest emergency department.
- The patient is unstable. Unstable stroke patients are those that are under CPR or have an inability to ventilate and or oxygenate the patient with BLS maneuvers.
- The patient/family refuses ground or air transportation to Doctor's Medical Center.

Paramedics will document base hospital contact in the patient electronic care report.

Contact the Tuolumne County EMS Agency with any questions 209-533-7460.