

**MOUNTAIN-VALLEY EMS AGENCY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**POLICY: 530.00
TITLE: STEMI TRIAGE AND
DESTINATION**

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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STEMI TRIAGE AND DESTINATION

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.67, 1798, 1798.101, 1798.105, and 1798.170

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. “STEMI” means an acute myocardial infarction that generates a specific type of ST-segment elevation on a 12-lead ECG.
- B. “STEMI Alert” is a report from Prehospital personnel that notifies a STEMI Receiving Center or STEMI Referral Hospital as early as possible that a patient has a specific computer-interpreted Prehospital 12-lead ECG indicating a STEMI.
- C. “STEMI Receiving Center (SRC)” is a hospital in the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency region that has an interventional cardiology lab licensed by the Department of Health Services which provides emergent cardiac catheterization 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with an established quality assurance program and a written commitment by the hospital administration supporting the center’s interventional cardiology mission for STEMI patients.
- D. “STEMI Referral Hospital (SRH)” is any hospital in the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency region that lacks the availability or continuous availability of 24/7/365 cardiac catheterization. These hospitals will have the ability to administer thrombolytics to a STEMI patient. These hospitals will also have written transfer policies for STEMI patients to STEMI Receiving Centers.
- E. “STEMI Patient” means a patient 18 years of age or greater who has received a 12 lead electrocardiogram in the pre-hospital environment that stipulates ***Acute MI Suspected*** or “ECG Suggestive of Acute MI” on the computer interpretation on the ECG.
- F. “Pre Hospital Care Provider” means the ambulance service provider, fire service agency, or any other emergency service provider authorized by Mountain-Valley EMS Agency.
- G. “ALS” means Advanced Life Support, as defined in Section 1797.52, Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

III. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for Emergency Medical Service personnel to identify and transport patients with acute ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) who could benefit from the rapid response and specialized services of a STEMI Receiving Center (SRC).

IV. POLICY

This policy applies to adult patients with chest pain or symptoms suggestive of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) with a 12-lead ECG demonstrating elevated ST-segments indicating a specific type of myocardial infarction.

V. TRIAGE

- A. Patients with chest pain or symptoms suggestive of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) shall have a 12-lead ECG performed
1. Exceptions include patients who are not cooperative with the procedure or patients in whom the need for critical resuscitative measures preclude performance of 12-lead ECG.
 2. Paramedic shall review the 12-lead ECG tracing in all instances to assure that little or no artifact exists (steady baseline, lack of other electrical interference, complete complexes present in all 12 leads). Repeat ECG may be necessary to obtain an accurate tracing.
- B. If computerized interpretation of accurately performed 12-lead ECG indicates either ***Acute MI*** or ***Acute MI Suspected***, the patient qualifies as a candidate for transport to a STEMI Receiving Center. Patients without these findings shall be transported per MVEMS receiving facility criteria policy 511.00.

Note: Hypotensive STEMI patients should be transported to the closest ED.

VI. DESTINATION

- A. With consent, a patient with an identified STEMI should be transported to a designated STEMI Receiving Center if estimated transport time is 60 minutes or less. If the patient has a preference or has a cardiologist associated with a designated STEMI Receiving Center, the patient shall be transported to their preferred hospital. If the patient does not have a preference, the patient shall be transported to the NEAREST STEMI Receiving Center.
- B. If transport time to a STEMI Receiving Center is estimated to be greater than sixty (60) minutes, the patient shall be transported to the nearest STEMI Referral Hospital. Paramedics in Mariposa, Amador and Calaveras counties may exercise their judgment and, in correspondence with the base hospital, request air transport (if available) of STEMI patients to a SRC.
- C. Unstable STEMI patients shall be diverted to the nearest emergency department. Unstable STEMI patients are defined as any ONE of the following:
1. Patients under CPR
 2. Inability to ventilate and/or oxygenate the patient with BLS maneuvers.

- D. A STEMI Receiving Center may request diversion of a STEMI patient to another STEMI Receiving Center only when:
1. The STEMI Receiving Center is unable to perform emergent percutaneous coronary intervention because the Cardiac Catheterization Team is already committed caring for another patient; or
 2. The STEMI Receiving Center is on internal disaster; or
 3. The Cardiac Catheterization laboratory is closed for repair or upgrade.

VII. STEMI ALERT/PATIENT REPORT

- A. The STEMI Alert should contain the following information:
1. Situation:
 - a. Identification of the call as a “STEMI Alert.”
 - b. Estimated time of arrival in _____ minutes for STEMI.
 - c. Patient age and gender
 - d. Confirm ECG states ***Acute MI*** or ***Acute MI Suspected***
 - e. If patient elects to go to a facility that is not a STEMI designation receiving center
 - f. Any urgent patient concerns
 2. Background:
 - a. Patient presenting complaint including any duration and presence/absence of chest pain, pressure, jaw pain, or SOB.
 - b. Pertinent past cardiac history including presence of a pacemaker
 3. Assessment:
 - a. General Impression
 - b. Patient improved or worse since on scene
 - c. Pertinent vital signs and significant abnormal physical examination findings
 4. Treatment:
 - a. Prehospital treatment given and response to treatment

VIII. DOCUMENTATION

- A. A copy of the 12-lead ECG shall be delivered to the nurse or doctor caring for the patient at arrival in the Emergency Department
- B. A copy of the 12-lead ECG shall be generated for inclusion in the Prehospital Patient Care Report (PCR) or incorporated via electronic means into the record. The finding of STEMI on 12-lead ECG and confirmation of the STEMI Alert shall also be documented on the PCR.