

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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ACUTE CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENT (CVA)

- I. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE: To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMTs and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL: Characterized by weakness or paralysis on one side of the body or face, slurred speech, speech difficulty, trouble with balance, could struggle in naming objects, confusion, difficulty swallowing, headache, visual disturbances (double vision, blindness, paralysis of extra-ocular muscles). **Decreased consciousness is very rarely caused by a stroke.**

STANDING ORDERS	
ACCESS	CAB
OXYGEN	Oxygen delivery as appropriate
MONITOR	Treat rhythm as appropriate.
IV/IO ACCESS	TKO
ACCUCHECK DEXTROSE	Test for glucose. 25 gms IV push – if blood glucose less than 60 mg/dl. May repeat once. Recheck blood glucose in 5 minutes after each dose.
GLUCAGON	If no IV access immediately available with blood glucose less than 60 mg/dl, give one (1) unit IM. May repeat once. Recheck blood glucose in 5 minutes after each dose.
DOCUMENT	Document Total Stroke Scale Score (0-3 total points possible, 1 point for each category scored “Abnormal”) from the Cincinnati Pre Hospital Stroke Scale. Document the last time patient was seen normal and calculate duration of symptoms

CINCINNATI PREHOSPITAL STROKE SCALE			
Sign/Symptom	How Tested	Normal	Abnormal
Facial Droop	Have the patient show their teeth, or smile.	Both sides of the face move equally.	One side of the face does not move as well as the other.
Arm Drift	The patient closes their eyes and extends both arms straight out for 10 seconds	Both arms move about the same, or both do not move at all.	One arm either does not move, or one arm drifts downward compared to the other.
Speech	The patient repeats “The sky is blue in Cincinnati.”	The patient says the correct words with no slurring of words	The patient slurs words, says the wrong words, or is unable to speak.

Time of Onset: Must be observed within 2.5 hours, observed by a reliable historian
Transport: The patient is considered possible CVA patients if any of the tested signs/symptoms are abnormal.