



Missouri's Time Critical Diagnosis System begins a coordinated response the minute you call 911.

When you use 911, you receive pre-hospital assessment and care. Treatment begins as soon as emergency medical responders arrive. The hospital is alerted so a specialized medical team is ready to continue your care as soon as you arrive.

In the TCD System, incident recognition triggers a coordinated response for trauma, stroke and heart attack, the leading causes of death in situations where timely critical care could help save a life.

Hospitals, doctors, paramedics and others providing emergency medical care work continually to improve the system response and care coordination.



Hospital Designations

The Time Critical Diagnosis System for trauma, stroke, and STEMI (a specific type of heart attack) is implementing four levels of hospital designation across the state. The center designation and the level is a voluntary designation for which a hospital can apply. These center designations reflect a range of hospital-based functions within the emergency medical care system and each plays a vital part in the system.

In general, Level I Centers function as resource center within a region, for example maintaining specialized resources for the most complex patients.

Level II Centers generally provide definitive care to high volumes of trauma, stroke and STEMI patients within a region.

Level III centers play an important role in providing access into the system and important patient care in non-metropolitan areas, and generally refer to a higher level center for definitive care.

Level IV centers, a key entry point into the system, provide access into the system in rural areas and stabilize and prepare patients for rapid transfer to a higher level of care.

The designated centers are integrated into the system and with one another, and thus have prepared plans of action for patient care.

"The most important thing is to call 911 if you or someone else is seriously injured or has symptoms of stroke or heart attack."



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Minutes matter. Call 911.

Trauma • Stroke • Heart Attack

Missouri's New
Time Critical Diagnosis System
for emergency medical care





Missouri's New Emergency Medical Care System

When a person suffers a traumatic injury, stroke or heart attack, that person's survival and recovery depend directly on the time it takes to receive treatment.

In order to provide the right care at the right place in the right time, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Foundation for Health and partners throughout the state developed the Time Critical Diagnosis (TCD) System for emergency medical care.

What is the TCD System?

The TCD System consists of the 911 emergency phone system, ambulance services and hospitals designated for care of trauma, stroke and heart attack patients. A quick response and quality care is coordinated to increase the rates of survival and level of recovery.

This new statewide system provides the best care for Missouri citizens 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system allows resources to be shared and maximizes the effectiveness of Missouri's health care dollars for urban and rural residents.

Automobile accidents, falls, assault... Missouri's Time Critical Diagnosis System has specialized trauma-care providers who give a life-saving, rapid response to trauma victims.

Many times it is obvious when an injury demands a 911 call. But in some cases it is difficult for individuals to know when an injury is severe enough to justify emergency care. However, dismissing an injury as "not too bad" can have terrible consequences.

When you don't know, call 911. Let professionals help decide if a trip to the hospital is needed.

Every Minute Counts

It is important to recognize serious trauma, stroke and heart attack. IMMEDIATELY call 911 so dispatchers can send trained emergency medical professionals to begin assessment and pre-hospital care. They will transport the patient and coordinate with the hospital so there are no delays when the patient arrives.

The TCD system coordinates emergency medical care to help ensure the patient is taken to the right place at the right time to receive the right care.



When stroke strikes, think **FAST!** By thinking **F.A.S.T.**, you can recognize the warning signs of a stroke:

- F**ace numbness or weakness, especially on one side
- A**rm numbness or weakness, especially only on one side of the body
- S**peech slurred or difficulty speaking, understanding or sudden confusion
- T**ime to call 911 – especially if there is a sudden loss of vision, loss of balance with dizziness or severe headache

Missouri's Time Critical Diagnosis System has specialized stroke care professionals ready to offer crucial life saving treatment.

Heart attack is a leading cause of death. Missouri has specialized heart attack care professionals ready to offer time-critical diagnosis and coordinated care.

Some heart attacks happen suddenly; some begin slowly and with mild pain. It's often difficult to know if someone is having a heart attack.

When you suspect heart trouble, call 911. Professionals will help determine if a trip to the hospital is necessary.

Chest discomfort is a symptom in most heart attacks. Discomfort can begin in the center of the chest and last more than a few minutes. The discomfort may go away and come back, and can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

- Symptoms may also include:
- ❖ discomfort in one or both arms, possibly the back, neck, jaw or stomach
 - ❖ shortness of breath or difficulty breathing with or without chest discomfort
 - ❖ cold sweat, nausea or light-headedness

"It's not just the closest hospital, but the right hospital."