



MEMO

To: Missouri Ambulance Service Managers and Administrators
From: Les Jobe, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Date: 3/17/2015
Re: Stroke Center Designations and Transport Protocol

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has reviewed all hospitals which had applied for stroke center designation by the initial deadline. The Department will issue certificates for stroke center designation to those hospitals which have been approved to be designated by the Department.

As of March 23, 2015, all hospitals which have been issued a stroke center certificate of designation by the Department may begin holding themselves out as a Missouri stroke center at the approved level designated by the Department. The names of these hospitals will be posted on the Department's website to reflect stroke center designation and the level of stroke center designation at <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/chronic/tcdsystem/designatedhospitals.php>.

On March 23, 2015, the Bureau of EMS will begin the enforcement of Section 190.243.1, RSMo. (Cum.Supp.2013), which provides that "patients who suffer a stroke, as defined by Section 190.100, shall be transported to a stroke center".

19 CSR 30-40.790 establishes protocols for all ground and air ambulances to follow when transporting suspected stroke patients. However, Section 190.200.3, RSMo. (Cum.Supp.2013) provides that these regulatory requirements relevant to the transport of stroke patients may be waived by the proper submission and approval of a "community-based or regional transport plan".

It is important to understand that a waiver is not available to any service until the community-based or regional transport plan has been approved as indicated in 19 CSR 30-40.770. In the absence of an approved plan, compliance with the requirements set out in Section 190.243 RSMo and 19 CSR 30-40.790 will be required.

As of this time, two (2) community-based or regional transport plans have been approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

If you have any questions about the transportation of stroke patients by emergency medical services, please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-6356.

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