



## INTERFACILITY TRANSFER – GROUND AMBULANCE STROKE SYSTEM TRANSFER GUIDELINES

**Effective:** February 2, 2023  
**Replaces:** January 1, 2021

### I. Purpose of the Schedule

The purpose of this schedule is to identify Santa Clara County Stroke System Transfer Guidelines.

### II. Stroke Transfer Procedure

Stroke Transfer Procedure	
Step 1	Confirm patient needs endovascular or surgical neuro-intervention.
Step 2	Contact the receiving “Stroke Center” and confirm that the receiving physician will accept the patient.
Step 3	Determine the appropriate “Type of Ambulance Transport”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Is the patient receiving any medications?</li> <li>◆ Will a CCT-RN be needed?</li> </ul>
Step 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Initiate the transfer process immediately with your non-911 contracted ambulance provider, transfers can always be cancelled.</li> <li>◆ Request a response that is appropriate to the patient’s acuity.</li> <li>◆ Evaluate the expected time of arrival for the transport ambulance with the acuity of the patient.</li> <li>◆ If needed, contact another non-911 ambulance provider (CCT-RN or non-911 ALS); compare estimated time of arrival (ETA).</li> </ul>
Step 5	If the patient has no medications and is not in need of a CCT-RN and the acuity dictates rapid transfer by 911 ALS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Contact County Communications via direct phone line 408.299.3325.</li> <li>◆ Expect a ten (10) minute response time.</li> <li>◆ Have all necessary paperwork and films ready prior to ambulance arrival.</li> </ul>
Step 6	Prepare patient and paperwork for immediate transport ambulance arrives.

### III. Type of Ambulance Transports for Stroke Transfers

<b>Ground Ambulance Transport</b>	
CCT-RN	Provide ALS, administer most medications/drips, provide mechanical ventilation, and provide nursing care in accordance with the California Board of Nursing scope of practice.
Non-911 ALS	<p>Provide ALS. Most IV medications utilized for stroke patient are not in the paramedic's scope of practice, including thrombolytics. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Give bolus medication prior to arrival, or</li> <li>◆ Complete the infusion, or</li> <li>◆ Make plans to send facility staff (minimum one RN) during the transport to complete the infusion.</li> <li>◆ Thrombolytics cannot be running at time of call, unless facility staff (minimum RN) is at patient's side.</li> </ul>
911 ALS	<p><b><u>Only for critically ill patients that need immediate transfer.</u></b></p> <p>Provide ALS. Most IV medications utilized for stroke patient are not in the paramedic's scope of practice, including thrombolytics. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Give bolus medication prior to arrival, or</li> <li>◆ Complete the infusion, or</li> <li>◆ Make plans to send facility staff (minimum one RN) during the transport to complete the infusion.</li> <li>◆ Thrombolytics cannot be running at time of call, unless facility staff (minimum RN) is at patient's side.</li> </ul>
Non-911 BLS	Provide BLS only. Last resort. Will send facility staff (minimum one RN) during the transport to complete the infusion and care for the patient.
<p><b><i>List of Permitted Ground Ambulance Providers found in Schedule A of this policy. Additional guidance can be found in Santa Clara County EMS Reference 808.</i></b></p>	
<b>Air Ambulance Transport</b>	
<p>Provide ALS, administer most medications/drips, provide mechanical ventilation, and provide nursing care in accordance with the California Board of Nursing scope of practice.            Policy 621: Interfacility Transfer-Air Ambulance identifies system requirements and providers.</p>	

#### IV. Designated Santa Clara County Stroke Centers

Stroke Center	Level of Care	Phone Number
Good Samaritan (GSH)	Comprehensive / Primary	408.559.2552
Regional-San Jose (RSJ)	Comprehensive / Primary	408.729.2841
Stanford (SUH)	Comprehensive / Primary	800.800.1551
El Camino-Mountain View (ECH)	Thrombectomy Capable / Primary	650.940.7055
Kaiser-Santa Clara (KSC)	Thrombectomy Capable / Primary	408.851.1000
El Camino-Los Gatos (LGH)	Primary	408.866.4040
Kaiser-San Jose (STH)	Primary	408.972.6140
O'Connor (OCH)	Primary	408.947.3999
Saint Louise (SLH)	Primary	408.848.8680
Valley Medical Center (VMC)	Primary	888.880.2862