PRIMARY STROKE CENTER DESIGNATION

Effective: October 28, 2013
Replaces: New
Review: October, 2016

Resources: None

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process by which an acute care hospital may be designated a Primary Stroke Center.

II. Definitions

Primary Stroke Center (PSC) – A specially equipped acute care hospital designated by the Santa Clara County EMS Agency to receive patients from the 911 system, from non-PSC hospitals, and those who self-present with actual or suspected stroke.

III. Policy

A. All PSCs in Santa Clara County shall be designated as such by the EMS Agency and shall be verified through the Joint Commission Disease Specific Care Certification Program for Primary Stroke Centers. Only hospitals designated by the Santa Clara County EMS Agency as 9-1-1 Receiving Centers are eligible for PSC designation.

B. All designated PSCs in Santa Clara County shall participate in the Santa Clara County Stroke System Quality Improvement process.

IV. Designation

A. Any acute care hospital that desiring to be designated as a Primary Stroke Center should apply for such designation by submitting a formal request on hospital letterhead to the Santa Clara County EMS Agency. The request shall include:

1. A description of the proposed service
2. A statement of commitment by senior hospital administration and physician staff, signed by the Hospital Chief Executive and the Medical Chief of Staff, supporting PSC designation

3. An outline of call panel coverage for stroke patients

4. The individuals to be named as Stroke Center Medical Director and Stroke Center Program Manager.

5. The proposed start date for the new service

B. A hospital designated as a PSC shall apply for certification from the Joint Commission Disease Specific Care Certification Program for Primary Stroke Centers within one calendar year of designation.

C. An on-site review may be conducted by the SCC EMS Medical Director and other EMS Agency Staff.

D. The cost of the designation is the responsibility of the requesting hospital.

E. The hospital to be designated must meet all policy requirements.

F. The hospital must enter into a contract designating the hospital as a STEMI receiving center and pay the annual designation fee.