Santa Barbara County EMS County Wide Protocols

Policy 533-21

STROKE

ADULT

BLS Procedures

- · Assess LOC and perform neurological assessment
 - o Cincinnati Stroke Scale (CSS)
- Administer oxygen as indicated
- o Refer to Policy 533-02: Airway Management
- Determine Blood Glucose Level (BGL)
- o Refer to Policy 533-06: Altered Neurological Function

Expanded Scope

- Determine Blood Glucose Level (BGL) if not obtained prior
 - o Refer to Policy 533-06: Altered Neurological Function

ALS Prior to Base Hospital Contact

Stroke Assessment

- Perform Cincinnati Stroke Scale (CSS)
 - o If positive, perform VAN Screen
- o Refer to Policy 550: Stroke System Triage and Destination
- Vascular Access
- Cardiac monitor

"Stroke Alert" Criteria

Positive CSS, VAN negative, TLKW < 24 hours & BGL > 60mg/dL → Declare "Stroke Alert"

"LVO Alert" Criteria

Presence of arm drift on CSS AND positive VAN, TLKW < 24 hours & BGL > 60mg/dL → Declare "LVO Alert"

Stroke Symptoms with TLKW > 24 hours or Unknown TLKW

- If patient exhibits stroke symptoms, but TLKW is > 24 hours (or unknown/unable to determine)
 - → Declare "Subacute Stroke Suspected"
- This is NOT a Stroke/LVO Alert.
- Do not delay transport for on-scene assessment

Base Hospital Notification and Report

- Make early BH contact with "Stroke Alert" or "LVO Alert" patients
- Advise BH of "Stroke Alert, "LVO Alert," or "Subacute Stroke Suspected."

Base Hospital Physician Orders Only

Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures	
Additional Information	
Cincinnati Stroke Scale Guidelines	VAN Screen: Arm Drift + One of the Following
Facial Droop o Normal: Both sides of face move equally o Abnormal: One side of face does not move at all	Visual Disturbance o Normal: Ability to see in all directions (up, down, left, right) o Abnormal: There is vision loss (partial or complete)
Arm Drift ○ Normal: Both arms move equally or not at all ○ Abnormal: One arm drifts compared to the other	Aphasia o Normal: Ability to communicate clearly & understand simple commands o Abnormal: Inability to communicate clearly, is mute, or cannot understand commands o APHASIA IS NOT SLURRED SPEECH
Speech o Normal: Patient uses correct words with no slurring Abnormal: Slurred or inappropriate words or mute	Neglect o Normal: Ability to track surroundings & all peripheral sensation intact Abnormal: Looks to one side or ignores stimulus to one side of the body
ePCR Documentation Should Include the Following:	
Activation of the Specialty Care Stroke Tab	CSS Assessment
Documentation of BGL	VAN Assessment (if performed)
Name/contact number of person w/ TLKW information	Time Last Known Well (TLKW)