



Date: 1 November 2016

To: East Kootenay & Boundary District Unit Chiefs and Ambulance Crew

Re: **Interior Health – East Kootenay Corridor Stroke Triage & Diversion
Pilot Implementation September 2016**

Building on the existing Interior Health Authority “hot stroke” transport map, IHA and BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) are collaborating to implement a pilot project to assist time-sensitive, direct transport of stroke patients to designated stroke centres. This includes **bypassing smaller health care centres and / or hospitals**, when necessary. The decision to bypass a health care facility will be made by an Emergency Physician Online System (EPOS) physician.

For Your Action:

When transporting a stroke patient:

- ***If the closest facility is a designated IHA Stroke Centre***, please transport the patient directly as per current policy.
- If the time of onset of symptoms to arrival at a designated stroke centre is ***less than or equal to 2 hours and 15 minutes***, please consult EPOS for approval to transport directly to the stroke centre at East Kootenay Regional Hospital (EKRH) in Cranbrook.
- Please call triage at EKRH in advance of arrival to expedite the registration process thereby enabling expedited access to patient care. Please provide:
 - Your patient’s **Personal Health Number (PHN)**; and
 - Your **estimated time of arrival (ETA)**.

In and Out of Scope Communities:

As the time on onset of symptoms to arrival at a designated stroke centre is less than or equal to 2 hours and 15 minutes, this initiative will not apply to some communities in the East Kootenay area.

<i>In-Scope Communities:</i>	<i>Out-of-Scope Communities:</i>
403 Cranbrook	409 Field
404 Creston	413 Golden*
405 Elkford	
406 Fernie	
411 Kimberley	
414 Invermere	
428 Sparwood	

**Please note that this initiative is in addition to the stroke pilot currently underway in the West Kootenays (Kootenay Lake Hospital, Nelson). The community of Golden also has a separate process in that stroke patients are directly transported to Calgary to receive care.*

Information:

Please see the attached document from IHA for additional information.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Nick Balfour, Medical Director, Interior Districts
BC Emergency Health Services

C.C. Paul Swain, Director, Patient Care Delivery, Interior Districts
Doug Garland, Manager, Kamloops Dispatch Operations Centre
Brent Middleton, Manager, Patient Care Delivery, Duty Supervisor Program
Managers, Patient Care Delivery, Interior Districts
Unit Chiefs, East Kootenay District
Unit Chiefs, Boundary District