



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Protocols

Revised Date: May 1, 2025

ACUTE CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENT (STROKE)

Adult

Pediatric

Stroke Alert Criteria

Stroke Alert: Any abnormal BE-FAST exam findings **AND** a Last Known Well Time (LKWT) < 24 hours

First assess for **any potential stroke** symptoms using **BE-FAST**:

Balance: patient performs bilateral finger-to-nose test and bilateral heel-to-shin test (while lying down):

- Normal: performs the 2 tests above normally
- Abnormal: failure of either exam, sudden onset loss of coordination or balance, trouble walking

Eyes: evaluate all 4 quadrants of the visual field:

- Normal: no visual changes from patient's baseline
- Abnormal: sudden change to vision, blurry, double vision or any loss of vision

Facial Droop: have the patient show their teeth or smile:

- Normal: both sides move equally
- Abnormal: 1 side of the face does not move equally

Arm Drift: patient closes both eyes and holds both arms straight out palms up for 10 seconds:

- Normal: both arms stay still or move the same
- Abnormal: 1 arm does not move, pronates, or drifts downward compared to the other

Speech: have the patient say, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks":

- Normal: correct words, no slurring
- Abnormal: slurred words, wrong words, or is unable to speak

Timing of the symptoms: Ask the last time they DID NOT have the current signs or symptoms

- **Stroke Alert if:** LKWT < 24 hours
 - LKWT: Time last known to be at baseline state of health, without present symptoms. NOT when symptoms were discovered.

Any abnormal BE-FAST findings AND LKWT < 24 hours: Complete and document LAMS score assessment:

- LAMS Score of 4 or 5: Consider triage direct Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) See Direction.
- LAMS score assessment not indicated if BE-FAST negative OR LKWT >24



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LAMS Score (≥ 4 indicates a high likelihood of Severe Stroke)

Obvious asymmetry-unilateral weakness with any of the following motor exams:

	Scoring
Facial Droop	Absent = 0 Points Present = 1 Point
Arm Weakness	Absent = 0 Points Drifts = 1 Point Falls Rapidly = 2 Points
Grips	Equal = 0 Points Weak = 1 Point No Grip = 2 Points
Adult	Pediatric
BLS	
Assess vital signs O ₂ , titrate SpO ₂ > 94%	
BLS Optional Scope	
Blood Glucose Check	
ALS	
Cardiac Monitor, Waveform EtCO ₂ , Vascular Access, 12-Lead ECG (do not delay transport for 12-Lead)	
Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If new onset altered state (GCS < 14) with unidentifiable etiology, consider acute stroke• Treat hypoglycemia if present• If not contraindicated, stroke victim with LAMS of 4 or 5 may still benefit from thrombolysis (TNK) when LKWT < 4 hours. See base direction section.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Contraindications to TNK:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current anticoagulant therapy; not including ASA• History of stroke within the last 3 months• History of GI bleeding within the last 3 weeks• Any history of intracranial hemorrhage (ever)	



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Direction

- Transport patient with head of bed at approximately 30 degrees (not supine)
- Bring patient's medications to hospital
- Bring family/caregiver. If unable, collect phone number of person who can provide history of events
 - Advise them to immediately answer phone calls from unknown numbers as it may be the treatment team
- Transport to the closest designated Stroke Receiving Center when:
 - LKWT is under 24 hours
 - Patient is BE-FAST positive
 - **LAMS 3 or lower transport to closest Stroke Receiving Center (any)**
 - **LAMS 4 or higher transport to closest Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) if:**
 - Travel time is less than 45 minutes
 - Stable airway
 - Systolic blood pressure above 90
- Contact the Stroke Receiving Center with a "**STROKE ALERT**" (preferably from the scene)
 - Include All of the following information:
 - Nature of the symptoms
 - LKWT
 - BE-FAST Stroke Assessment findings
 - LAMS Score- If LAMS of 4 or 5 give "**LAMS ALERT**"
 - Blood glucose
 - Vital signs
 - Treatment provided
- Contact the Base Hospital if there are treatment or transport questions
 - Perform destination consult for consideration of TNK when:
 - LAMS of 4 or 5 and LKWT between 3-4 hours, and
 - Transport to CSC will bypass a closer Stroke Receiving Center

BE-FAST and LAMS Scores MUST be documented in all PCRs