



Administrative Policy		5402
Effective April 1, 2018		Expires March 31, 2019
Policy: Continuation of STEMI Care	Approval: Medical Director Reza Vaezazizi, MD	Signed
Applies To: STEMI System, EMS System	Approval: REMSA Director Bruce Barton	Signed

THIS POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO THE TRANSFER OF ACUTE STEMI PATIENTS FROM A STEMI REFERRAL HOSPITAL TO A REMSA DESIGNATED STEMI RECEIVING CENTER.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to develop a system of care that is consistent with standards of achieving a door to balloon time of less than 90 minutes. This system of care consists of STEMI receiving centers (SRC), STEMI referral hospitals (SRH), EMS field providers, the County of Riverside EMS Agency (REMSA), and EMS leaders combining their efforts to achieve this goal.

AUTHORITY

[California Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.220, 1798, 1798.170 and 1798.172](#)
[California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Social Security, Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services](#)

STEMI Referral Hospital Responsibilities

1. Once confirmed by receiving physician at STEMI Receiving Center, all SRCs are required to accept STEMI patients from SRH’s as a higher level of care, as long as they have the capacity to treat these patients.
 - a. ECG must be transmitted from SRH to SRC
2. The decisions on the need for emergency transport, destination, and mode of transport are those of the sending physician.
3. The SRH physician shall notify the SRC of the immediate re-triage of the STEMI patient and communicate the patient’s ECG findings and/or reason for re-triage.
 - a. If utilizing Immediate Re-Triage or Call Continuation, the paramedic crew shall not stand by for longer than 20 minutes.
 - b. Physicians should reserve emergency STEMI patient transports for patients whose condition is likely to deteriorate while waiting for other transport modalities.
4. Hospitals are encouraged to make prior agreements with REMSA permitted transport services capable of transporting STEMI patients.
5. Paramedics may transport patients on REMSA-approved IV drips only. Unless medically necessary, the SRH should avoid using medication drips that are outside the paramedic scope of practice to avoid delay.
6. If medications or IV infusions that are outside the paramedic scope of practice are infusing, the STEMI base hospital should be consulted. The SRH may consider sending an RN or other appropriate staff to monitor those treatments which are not included in the paramedic scope of practice.
7. Per EMTALA regulations, emergency departments must perform a medical screening examination (MSE) prior to sending the patient to the SRC.
8. Copies of all documents, x-rays and laboratory data shall be available for transfer with the patient **or** may be faxed or sent by courier to the SRC to avoid transport delay.

STEMI Receiving Center Responsibilities

1. The SRC shall have a physician immediately available to respond to ED to ED transport requests who has the authority at the facility to accept patients with life threatening conditions.
2. The SRC shall complete a STEMI Report Form and submit to REMSA within 60 days.
3. The SRC shall notify REMSA of all emergency STEMI patient transports and call continuations within 60 days.

Transport Responsibilities

1. Transport personnel shall contact the accepting SRC en route to provide an update on patient status during transport.
2. Transport personnel shall complete a patient care report / electronic patient care report (PCR/ePCR).
3. The transporting agency will make provisions for the timely return of any staff and/or equipment sent by the SRH at no cost to the SRH or staff.

Procedure for Continuation of STEMI Care Transport

1. Once the decision to send the patient to a SRC has been made, the ED physician at the SRH must contact the ED physician at the SRC.
 - a. The ED physician at each SRC has the authority to accept a STEMI patient from another ED without consulting with the cardiologist.
2. The SRH must contact a REMSA permitted transport service to arrange for the immediate transport of the patient.
 - a. Contact a REMSA permitted transport service to arrange for the immediate transport of the patient. Utilize the following verbiage to the transport dispatch:
"This is a STEMI interfacility transfer from _____ to _____."
STEMI Referral Hospital STEMI Receiving Center
 - b. When continuation of STEMI care has been initiated the ground transport ambulance will respond immediately to requesting facility code 3.
3. A STEMI patient may be transported from a SRH to a SRC by one of the following, as determined by the sending physician to be the most appropriate:
 - a. Paramedic-escorted transport (immediate re-triage "call-continuation").
 - i. The sending physician may request the patient's current paramedic staffed ground transport ambulance to stand by on premises for immediate transport of the patient to a SRC.
 - ii. This standby shall not exceed 20 minutes.
 - b. An EMT or AEMT staffed ground transport ambulance with registered nurse and/or appropriate support personnel provided by the transferring facility, if necessary.
 - c. A REMSA permitted air ambulance.
 - d. A REMSA permitted critical care transport (CCT) ambulance staffed with a registered nurse and other staff as required.