

# SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

**Policy Reference No.: 5015**  
**Effective Date: August 1, 2007**  
**Review Date: January 1, 2011**  
**Supersedes: September 1, 2006**

## STROKE CENTER STANDARDS

### I. PURPOSE

Establish the minimum standards for Receiving Hospitals who wish to accept acute stroke patients from approved ALS and BLS providers within the San Francisco EMS System.

### II. AUTHORITY

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1255, 1255.5, 1256, 1797.220, 1797.222, 1798, 1798.150, 1798.163, 1799.202 et seq.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 10727, 10728, 42400 et seq., 100147, 100172, 100175.
- C. Joint Committee on the Accreditation of Hospitals and Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) Primary Stroke Center.

### III. POLICY

A. Stroke Centers shall be Receiving Hospitals as defined by San Francisco (SF) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency Policy and will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws as well as all EMS Agency Policies.

- 1. JCAHO accredited Primary Stroke Centers are considered to have met the specialty equipment and personnel requirements of this policy. Hospitals approved under this provision will have transfer agreements with other Receiving Hospitals for stroke patients and will participate in the Local EMS Information System (LEMSIS) and EMS quality improvement programs per EMS Agency Policy #5010, *Receiving Hospital Standards*.

B. Application Process:

- 1. A Receiving Hospital that wishes to become a Stroke Center must submit a request in writing no later than 60 days prior to the desired date of designation as a Stroke Center by the EMS Agency.
- 2. The request must include the date of achievement of JACHO accreditation as Primary Stroke Center and the name and contact information for the Primary Stroke Center Program Manager

3. The request must be signed by the program Manager and the hospital Chief Executive or Chief Operations Officer
4. Currently designated Stroke Centers must submit this information with 60 days of the effective date of the policy revision (August 1, 2007)

**B. Approval:**

1. The Stroke Center will be approved after satisfactory review of application documentation and a site survey, when deemed necessary, by the EMS Agency Medical Director or his/her designee.
- 2 The Stroke Center will be re-approved after satisfactory San Francisco EMS Agency review every two (2) years
3. The Stroke Center Program Manager shall notify the EMS Agency of subsequent changes in their status.