

STEMI NEWS

August 2008



STEMI System Launch September 8th at 0800 EMS & Hospitals Ready!

On September 8th at 0800 Contra Costa EMS will launch its STEMI System. This life-saving program for the 1.2 million residents of Contra Costa County is anticipated to save lives and set a new standard of cardiac care in our community! The designated STEMI receiving centers include:

- Doctor's Medical Center San Pablo
- John Muir Medical Center-Concord
- John Muir Medical Center-Walnut Creek
- Kaiser Medical Center-Walnut Creek
- San Ramon Regional Medical Center



Contra Costa STEMI System will also recognize two STEMI Receiving Centers in Alameda County:

- ValleyCare-Pleasanton
- Summit Medical Center Oakland

Prehospital and emergency department personnel have been trained to their roles and responsibilities in one of the most extensive educational efforts Contra Costa EMS and its partners have ever provided. Approximately 600 prehospital personnel have been trained as well as emergency department physicians and nurses in all our receiving hospitals.

STEMI program coordinators and Fire-EMS Quality Improvement coordinators will be working closely to follow-up on patient care issues and monitor the performance of the STEMI System. If you need a quick review of your role and responsibilities in Contra Costa's new STEMI System go to www.cccems.org and click on the STEMI webtab. Prehospital and Hospital STEMI Education is posted on the site.

What happens when you can't get there in time...



In certain areas of the county distances are long and at certain times of the day traffic is a nightmare. These are realities that can raise questions about what to do when a 911 unit is unable to get the patient to a STEMI receiving center within the "ideal" 30 minute transport timeframe EMS has set for its providers.

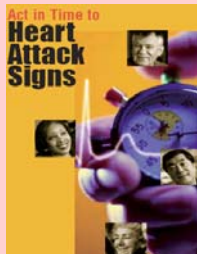
In those circumstances where transport time or patient deterioration makes it impossible to get to a STEMI receiving center quickly, EMS policy directs transport to the closest ED. These patients will receive thrombolytic medications and the patient can be stabilized for transfer to a STEMI receiving center, if needed. Emergency departments who do not have 24/7 PCI capability have been doing thrombolysis for many years so those protocols are in place and will continue.

12 Lead Strip Handoff...All field 12 leads should be given to the RN receiving the patient. Make sure the 12 lead has appropriate patient identifiers such as the patient name and DOB prior to handoff. For Zoll 12 lead devices make sure the computer interpretation *****ACUTE MI***** is on the strip!



Check your clocks!

Its all about time in a STEMI System.... make sure your 12 lead devices are calibrated to the correct date and time at the beginning of each shift. **Accuracy Is Critical!**



New Heart Attack Information for the Public

75% of patients with heart attack transport themselves to a hospital. This has been shown to delay treatment when delays are known to be deadly. Contra Costa EMS is making the "Act in Time to Heart Attack Signs" campaign part of our public education message. A key to improving care in any STEMI system is a strong public message to call 911 early. Most victims of heart attack may delay accessing care up to 2 hours. "The Act in Time" campaign was developed by the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. EMS is partnering with our STEMI Receiving Centers to include these strong public messages in their own patient education programs and materials. To access these materials go to our website at www.cccems.org.

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Frequency of Prehospital 12 lead use in Chest Pain Patients Improving

Our preliminary prehospital data on 12 lead use in chest pain patients demonstrated that only about 66% of patients were getting a 12 lead. In a recent review Dr. Barger, EMS Medical Director found that this has improved to 75% over the last six months.



It was also found that where the paramedic impression of Weak/Dizzy/Sick/Nausea was the problem and a 12 lead was done there appeared to be an increased incidence of STEMI. This is a curious finding and its significance is unknown. These may have been patients with atypical symptoms even though most STEMI patients appear to present with classic heart attack symptoms.

Nationally women have been identified in EMS systems as not always getting the same level of care when it comes to heart disease. Contra Costa EMS providers are performing exceptionally well in this area. Our data indicates that women who present with chest pain are getting 12 leads at a higher rate than their male counterparts. Although we need to continue to improve our 12 lead use overall in chest pain patients, our EMS providers are doing a good job of not missing women in the mix.

STEMI System Communication Critical

A great STEMI system with great outcomes is dependent on effective communication. The research is clear. The sooner you identify a STEMI and communicate that information to the STEMI Center the better the outcome for the patient.



This issue was addressed in our first STEMI Newsletter but it is a topic that is so important we wanted to provide a quick review again. EMS providers will use SBAR communication in all STEMI situations. **In 2009 EMS will go to SBAR for all EMS patient handoff and hospital contact communications.**

Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the call as a "STEMI Alert" Give ETA, patient age & gender State ECG findings & any urgent concerns
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting complaints/symptoms Past cardiac history including pacemaker
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General impression Pertinent vital signs & physical exam Pain level
RX & Recap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prehospital treatment given Patient response

STEMI System Performance Focuses for EMS

- < 15 minute scene times
- < 30 minute transport times
- All STEMI Alerts called ahead
- EMS to Balloon < than 90 minutes
- Hardcopy 12 leads to RN in all STEMI's
- STEMI ePCR documentation complete



We are all in this together

Timely constructive feedback focused on positives & corrections when needed is the key to working as a STEMI System TEAM member. Do your part to keep that focus!

