



State of Maryland

**Maryland
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Emergency Medical
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To: EMS Clinicians

From: Theodore Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

Timothy Chizmar, MD
State EMS Medical Director

Date: January 29, 2021

Re: **Destination for Adult Acute Stroke Patients with LAMS 4 or Greater**
(UPDATE)

Effective immediately, stroke patients who meet all of the following criteria should be transported to a Comprehensive Stroke Center or a thrombectomy-capable Primary Stroke Center, if one is available within 30 minutes by ground transport:

- Adult acute stroke patients (>18 years of age), AND
- Positive Cincinnati Stroke Scale or positive Posterior Cerebellar Assessment, AND
- Los Angeles Motor Scale (LAMS) score of 4 or greater, AND
- Patient can be delivered to the hospital within 22 hours of last time known well

If the transport time to a Comprehensive Stroke Center or a thrombectomy-capable Primary Stroke Center exceeds 30 minutes by ground transport, the patient should be transported to the closest designated Acute Stroke Ready or Primary Stroke Center. If there is not a stroke center with 30 minutes, the patient should be transported to the nearest hospital.

The Baltimore City LAMS Research Protocol has concluded. We would like to thank Dr. Urrutia's research team, collaborating stroke centers and EMS operational programs for helping us to understand the best destination for patients with suspected large vessel occlusion strokes. For these patients with a LAMS score of 4 or greater, direct transport to a stroke center with thrombectomy capability provided a reduced time to clot retrieval procedure with minimal delay in the administration of the clot-busting medication, tPA, when appropriate.

Comprehensive Stroke Centers include: University of Maryland Medical Center, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.

Primary Stroke Centers that have indicated thrombectomy capability on a 24/7/365 basis include: Shady Grove Medical Center (Adventist), Sinai Hospital (LifeBridge), Peninsula Regional Medical Center (TidalHealth), and Suburban Hospital (JHM).