



**TO:** Riverside County EMS System Stakeholders

**FROM:** Humberto Ochoa, MD, Medical Director *HRO*

**RE:** Emergency Department to Emergency Department STEMI Transfer Guidelines

**DATE:** September 9, 2009

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1. Definitions:
  - a. STEMI – ST-elevation myocardial infarction, a specific heart attack that can be identified on 12 lead ECG by trained personnel.
  - b. STEMI Referral Center – a paramedic receiving hospital that is not designated by the Riverside County EMS Agency as a STEMI Receiving Center.
  - c. STEMI Receiving Center – a hospital that has received designation from the Riverside County EMS Agency as a STEMI Receiving Center.
2. If a STEMI Referral Center needs to transfer a STEMI patient to a STEMI Receiving Center in Riverside County (Emergency Department to Emergency Department), the following actions should occur to effect the most expeditious transfer:
  - a. Once the decision to transfer the patient has been made, the ED physician at the STEMI Referral Center must contact the ED physician at the STEMI Receiving Center.
    - i. Sending physicians should avoid the use of the word “transfer” during this communication in order to avoid having the phone call transferred to the STEMI Receiving Center’s transfer center, admitting nurse, or anyone other than the Receiving Center’s ED Physician. Suggested wording: “ED to ED for a higher level of care”.
    - ii. The Emergency Department physician at each STEMI Receiving Center has the authority to accept a STEMI patient from another ED without consulting with the cardiologist.
  - b. The STEMI Referral Center must contact a Riverside County permitted Ambulance Company to arrange for the immediate transfer of the patient.
    - i. Ideally, previous arrangements will have been made with ambulance companies capable of transferring STEMI patients (The ability to rapidly assemble a CCT unit or an ALS unit capable of transporting STEMI patients who may potentially be on medicated IV drips).
    - ii. When contacting the ambulance company, tell them that you need the ambulance emergently.
3. Please be aware that most, if not all, Emergency Departments will still have to complete a medical screening examination at the STEMI Receiving Center, per EMTALA regulations.
4. STEMI Receiving Center telephone numbers:
  - a. Riverside Community Hospital – (951) 788-3200
  - b. Desert Regional Medical Center – (760) 323-6251
  - c. Eisenhower Medical Center – (760) 837-8016
  - d. San Antonio Community Hospital – (909) 920-4798
  - e. Loma Linda University Medical Center – (909) 558-7911
  - f. Palomar Medical Center – (760) 739-3323
5. If a STEMI Referral Center has a patient with an evolving MI who emergently needs to be transferred to a STEMI Receiving Center, and the STEMI Referral Center has exhausted all means to find an accepting facility or means of transport without resolution, please contact the EMS Agency Duty Officer at (951) 712-3342 for further assistance.