



Regional Emergency Medical Organization
Office of the Medical Director
1653 Central Avenue • Albany, NY 12205
Office 518.464.5097 • Fax 518.464.5099
www.remo-ems.com

REMAC ADVISORY 2019-01

Re: REMO Regional Stroke Destination

Distribution: All EMS Providers, REMO Physicians, Emergency Department nursing and provider staff

Effective Date: Current

Policy: Providers should use FAST-ED to determine stroke destination. Patients with FAST-ED score >3 should go directly to comprehensive stroke center if estimated transport time is not more than 30 minutes farther than primary stroke center. Please review and follow attached algorithm.

Stroke care has been rapidly advancing over the last few years. In particular, care of the most severe strokes, large vessel occlusion strokes (LVO), has improved dramatically. Not only are these patients given thrombolytic medications, but physicians with special training and equipment can remove clots that are blocking blood flow. Removal of these clots if clinically appropriate can lead to dramatic improvements in outcomes. Centers that perform these procedures are termed “Comprehensive Stroke Centers”.

A REMAC subcommittee developed an algorithm to follow based on the FAST-ED stroke score. This score is available as an app for either the iPhone or Android. We recommend that all REMO physicians and REMO EMS providers download this and practice using it. A score of greater than 3 predicts a high likelihood of an LVO. Patients that do not have a FAST-ED score greater than 3 may be taken to any stroke center based on the algorithm.

Patients suffering suspected stroke, or their families, may request to go to centers that cannot perform endovascular care even when appropriate – however in these cases, call a REMO physician at the hospital the patient requested and have that physician evaluate the case and discuss with the family. Remember, patients and families may still request other facilities including hospitals that are not DOH approved Stroke Centers. The goal is to assure that our patients are given the opportunity to get care at the right hospitals to assure they have the best outcomes.

Training will be forthcoming through your agencies and the Region. We wanted to issue this advisory before the training was completed to assure the best possible outcomes for our patients.

Comprehensive Stroke Center: Albany Medical Center

NYS Primary Stroke Centers: Albany Memorial, Columbia Memorial, Ellis, Samaritan, St. Peters

FAST-ED App Article: <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/STROKEAHA.116.016026>

FAST-ED Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fast-ed/id1099779970?mt=8>

FAST-ED Google: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.allm.fasted&hl=en_US