

# Stroke

## EMS Triage and Destination Plan



### Stroke Patient

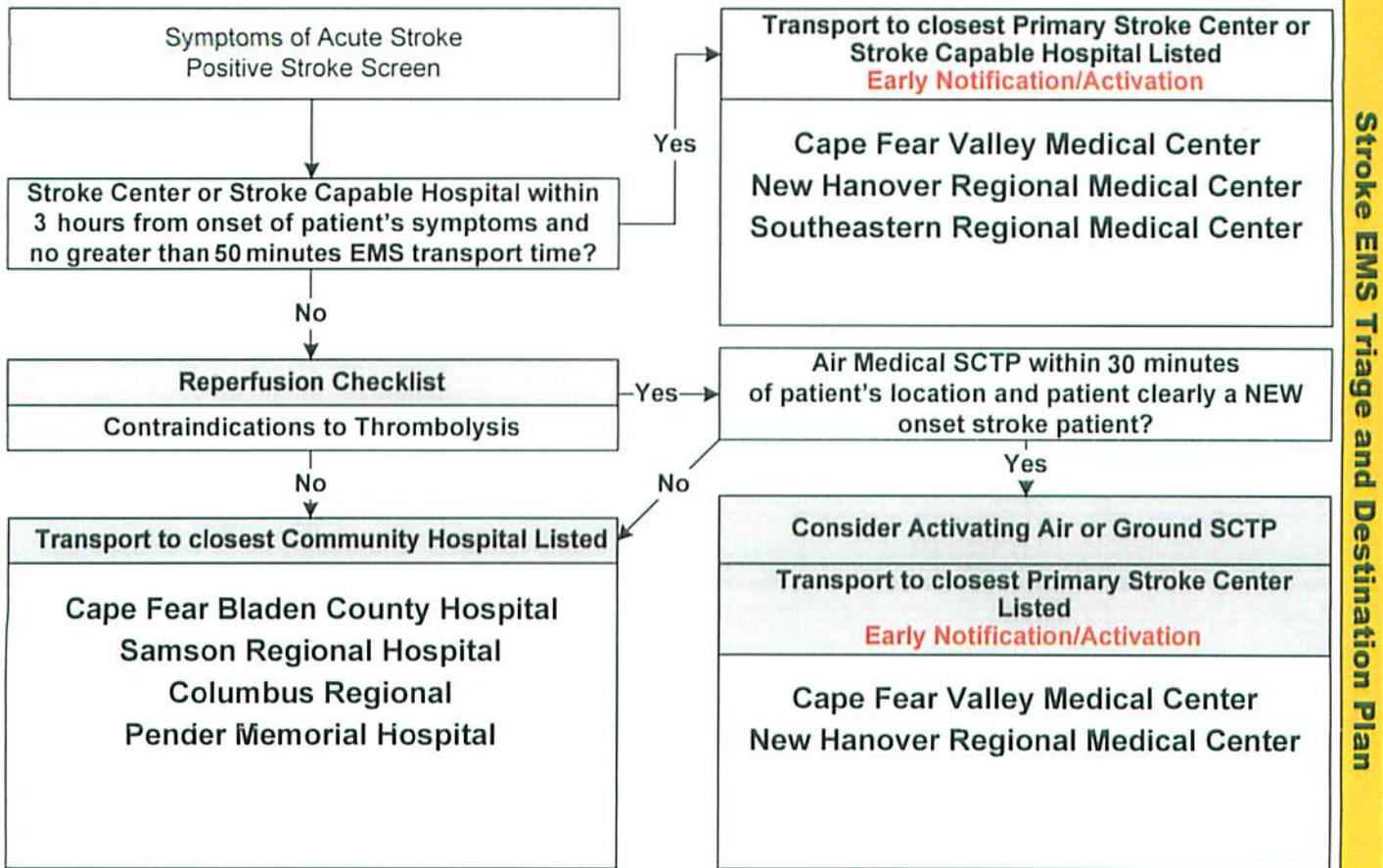
- \* A patient with symptoms of an acute Stroke as identified by the EMS Stroke Screen

### Time of Symptom Onset

- \* Defined as the last witnessed time the patient was symptom free (i.e. the time of onset for a patient awakening with stroke symptoms would be the last time he/she was known to be symptom free before the sleep period)

### The Purpose of this plan is to:

- \* Rapidly identify acute Stroke patients who call 911 or present to EMS
- \* Minimize the time from onset of Stroke symptoms to definitive care
- \* Quickly diagnose a Stroke using validated EMS Stroke Screen
- \* Complete a reperfusion checklist (unless being transported directly to a Stroke Capable Hospital) to determine thrombolytic eligibility
- \* Rapidly identify the best hospital destination based on symptom onset time, reperfusion checklist, and predicted transport time
- \* Early activation/notification to the hospital prior to patient arrival
- \* Minimize scene time to 10 minutes or less
- \* Provide quality EMS service and patient care to the EMS Systems citizens
- \* Continuously evaluate the EMS System based on North Carolina's Stroke EMS performance measures



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### Pearls and Definitions

- \* All Stroke Patients must be triaged and transported using this plan. This plan is in effect 24/7/365
- \* All Patient Care is based on the EMS Suspected Stroke Protocol
- \* **Primary Stroke Center** = a hospital that is currently accredited by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center. Free standing emergency departments and satellite facilities are not considered part of the Primary Stroke Center.
- \* **Stroke Capable Hospital** = a hospital which provides emergency care with a commitment to Stroke and the following capabilities:
  - \* CT availability with in-house technician availability 24/7/365
  - \* Ability to rapidly evaluate an acute stroke patient to identify patients who would benefit from thrombolytic administration
  - \* Ability and willingness to administer thrombolytic agents to eligible acute Stroke patients
  - \* Accepts all patients regardless of bed availability
  - \* Provides outcome and performance measure feedback to EMS including case review
- \* **Community Hospital** = a local hospital within the EMS System's service area which provides emergency care but does not meet the criteria for a Primary Stroke Center or Stroke Capable Hospital
- \* **Specialty Care Transport Program** = an air or ground based specialty care transport program which can assume care of an acute Stroke patient from EMS or a Hospital and transport the patient to a Primary Stroke Center.

## Bladen County EMS System

This protocol has been developed by the North Carolina Office of EMS