

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
GUIDELINE FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

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**SUBJECT: 900.07
MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:
STROKE**

**ORIGINAL ISSUE: 5/08
LATEST REVISION: 2/15**

Overview:

A stroke should be considered in anyone who has a sudden onset of focal neurological deficits or alteration in consciousness. Strokes are classified as ischemic (most common) or hemorrhagic. Regardless of the underlying pathophysiological cause, rapid assessment and prompt treatment and transport are necessary.

Pre-Hospital Actions:

- Assess and maintain ABCs, vital signs, monitor BP carefully for the development of hypertension.
- Maintain an NPO status (nothing by mouth).
- Administer oxygen as needed to keep oxygen saturation > 94%.
- Ascertain the exact time of onset, "time zero" of symptoms. This will be important if it is found that the patient meets the criteria for thrombolytics.
- Perform a Cincinnati Stroke Scale (see next page).
- Transport patient and alert ER as soon as possible.
- Start an IV of Normal Saline at a KVO rate. Avoid excessive fluid loading.
- Check blood sugar.
- Attach cardiac monitor.
- Monitor oxygen saturation
- Observe for seizure development; treat per the seizure protocol
- Determine and document patient's baseline mental status and neurologic exam prior to the current deficits.

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Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale

Facial Droop (have the patient show teeth and smile):

- Normal: both sides of face move equally
- Abnormal: one side of face does not move as well as the other side

Arm Drift (patient closes eyes and extends both arms straight out, with palms up, for 10 secs):

- Normal: both arms move the same OR both arms do not move at all
- Abnormal: one arm does not move OR one arm drifts down compared with the other

Abnormal Speech (have the patient say “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks”):

- Normal: patient uses correct words with no slurring
- Abnormal: patient slurs words, uses the wrong words, or is unable to speak

* If any 1 of these 3 signs is abnormal, the probability of a stroke is 72%.