

Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy			
STEMI Receiving Center Designation Criteria, Requirements & Responsibilities			
	Effective: 10/01/2026	Next Review: 07/2029	506
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: John Poland – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

PURPOSE:

To establish STEMI receiving center (SRC) designation criteria, requirements and responsibilities.

AUTHORITY:

- A. HSC, Division 2.5, § 1797.67, § 1797.88, § 1798.102, § 1798.150, § 1798.170, § 1798.172.
- B. CCR, Title 13, § 1105 (c).
- C. CCR, Title 22, Div. 9, Ch. 6.2.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)** – A procedure used to open or widen a narrowed or blocked coronary artery to restore blood flow supplying the heart, usually done on an emergency basis for a STEMI patient.
- B. **Primary PCI** – Urgent balloon angioplasty (with or without stenting), without the previous administration of fibrinolytic therapy or platelet glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors, to open the infarct-related artery during an acute myocardial infarction with ST-segment elevation.
- C. **ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI)** – A clinical syndrome defined by symptoms of myocardial infarction in association with ST-segment elevation on EKG.
- D. **STEMI Receiving Center (SRC)** – A licensed general acute care facility that has emergency interventional cardiac catheterization capabilities, meets the minimum STEMI care requirements contained in CCR (Title 22, Div. 9, Ch. 6.2), and is designated as a SRC by S-SV EMS.
- E. **STEMI Referring Hospital (SRH)** – A licensed general acute care facility that does not have emergency interventional cardiac catheterization capabilities, and transfers STEMI patients to SRCs for PCI services when necessary.

POLICY:

- A. Criteria for assessment, identification, treatment and transport of prehospital suspected STEMI patients shall be based on S-SV EMS Chest Pain/Suspected Symptoms of Cardiac Origin Protocol (C-6).

B. The following shall be met for a hospital to be designated as a SRC by S-SV EMS:

1. Be licensed by the California Department of Public Health Services as a general acute care hospital.
2. Have a special permit for basic or comprehensive emergency medical service pursuant to the provisions of CCR Title 22, Div. 5.
3. Be accredited by a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved deeming authority.
4. Meet all requirements contained in California Code of Regulations Title 22, Div. 9, Ch. 6.2, for STEMI Receiving Centers.
5. Have a cardiac catheterization laboratory (cath lab) license.
6. Have intra-aortic balloon pump capability.
7. Have a communication system for notification of a prehospital suspected STEMI patient, including 12-lead EKG receiving capabilities.
8. Ensure the cath lab team is immediately available.
9. Agree to accept all prehospital suspected STEMI patients according to applicable S-SV EMS policies/protocols.
10. Agree to accept all STEMI patients from adjacent SRHs and have transfer plans/agreements in place to ensure rapid transport of these patients to the SRC.
11. Perform a minimum of 36 Primary PCI and 200 total PCI procedures annually.
12. Have the following STEMI Program oversight staff:
 - a. One STEMI Program Medical Director who is a physician board certified/eligible in interventional cardiology with active PCI privileges at the SRC, and one STEMI Program Medical Co-Director who is a physician board certified/eligible in emergency medicine with active privileges to practice in the emergency department at the SRC. STEMI Program Medical Director/Co-Medical Director responsibilities include:
 - i. Oversight of STEMI program patient care.
 - ii. Participation in development of STEMI Program clinical practice guidelines/protocols.
 - iii. Coordination of STEMI program staff and services.
 - iv. Authority/accountability for STEMI Program quality and performance improvement.
 - v. Establish and monitor STEMI Program quality control.

- vi. Regular participation in S-SV EMS Regional STEMI QI Committee activity.
- b. One STEMI Program Manager, who is an RN, trained/certified in critical care nursing and affiliated with the cardiac catheterization laboratory at the SRC, and one STEMI Program Co-Manager who is an RN trained/certified in critical care nursing and affiliated with the emergency department at the SRC. STEMI Program Manager/Co-Manager responsibilities include:
 - i. Support the STEMI Program Medical Director/Co-Medical Director functions.
 - ii. Acts as the STEMI Program EMS liaison.
 - iii. Assures EMS-SRC STEMI data sharing.
 - iv. Manages EMS-SRC STEMI QI activities.
 - v. Authority/accountability for STEMI Program quality and performance improvement.
 - vi. Regular participation in S-SV EMS Regional STEMI QI Committee activity.
- 13. Have a quality improvement (QI) process in place to track and improve treatment (acutely and at discharge) with American College of Cardiology (ACC) and American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines-based Class 1 therapies. At a minimum, this process will evaluate performance in meeting the following AHA/ACC STEMI Receiving Center Achievement Measures:
 - a. Fibrinolysis within 30 minutes of ED arrival, if administered.
 - b. SRC Arrival to PCI ≤ 90 minutes for patients arriving by non-EMS modes of transport.
 - c. EMS First Medical Contact (FMC) to PCI ≤ 90 minutes, or ≤ 120 minutes when transport time is prolonged (≥ 45 minutes).
- 14. Have a QI process in place to provide ongoing feedback to adjacent SRHs on patients transferred for STEMI services. At a minimum, this QI process shall evaluate and provide SRH feedback of the following:
 - a. SRH STEMI patient door-to-first ECG time (goal < 10 minutes).
 - b. SRH STEMI patient door-to-transfer time (goal < 30 minutes).
 - c. SRH STEMI patient door-to-fibrinolysis time, if applicable (goal < 30 minutes).
 - d. Operational issues related to STEMI patient transfer delays.
 - e. Proportion of STEMI patients receiving fibrinolysis prior to transport when the system cannot achieve times consistent with ACC/AHA guidelines for primary PCI.

- f. Proportion of STEMI-eligible patients receiving any reperfusion (PCI or fibrinolysis) therapy.
- 15. Conduct regularly scheduled multidisciplinary team meetings to evaluate outcomes and quality improvement data. Operational issues should be reviewed, problems identified, and solutions implemented.
- 16. Provide CE opportunities, minimum of four (4) hours per year, for EMS personnel in areas of 12-lead EKG acquisition and interpretation, as well as assessment and management of STEMI patients.
- 17. Provide public education about STEMI warning signs and the importance of early utilization of the 9-1-1 system.
- 18. Comply with all requirements contained in S-SV EMS SRC agreements.
- 19. Pay the S-SV EMS SRC designation fees
- C. SRC diversion of STEMI patients shall only occur during times of an internal disaster or when the cath lab is otherwise unavailable.
 - 1. Notification shall be made to the following entities at least 24 hours prior to any planned event, or as soon as possible for any unplanned event, resulting in the cath lab being unavailable:
 - a. S-SV EMS.
 - b. SRC emergency department – to include a status posting on EMResource indicating that the cath lab is unavailable.
 - c. Appropriate adjacent SRC(s).
 - d. Appropriate prehospital provider agencies.
 - 2. All appropriate entities shall be notified as soon as possible when the cath lab is subsequently available.
 - 3. An S-SV EMS ambulance patient diversion form describing such events shall be submitted by email to DutyOfficer@ssvems.com by the end of the next business day.

PROCEDURE:

- A. The SRC applicant shall be designated after satisfactory review of written documentation and an initial site survey conducted by S-SV EMS representatives or designees and completion of a contract between the hospital and S-SV EMS.
- B. Designated SRCs shall have verification reviews by S-SV EMS representatives or designees conducted every three (3) years.

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- C. Failure to comply with the criteria and performance standards outlined in this policy and/or SRC contracts may result in probation, suspension or rescission of SRC designation. Compliance will be solely determined by S-SV EMS.