

# Informational Bulletin

## Stroke Initiative

Date: January 20, 2021

Number: 21.005

Effective Date: January 20, 2021

Expiration Date: N/A

Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief



Starting this month, Fauquier Hospital will begin some new initiatives in order to reduce door to needle times for stroke patients. In order to better serve our patients, they are in need of some help from us:

- Please ensure that you are pre-alerting the ED with a telephone call that you have a stroke patient as soon as possible.
- Ensure that you are documenting the time of your pre-alert to the ED and what stroke scale that you utilized within the PCR.
- Please draw labs on any patient that is medical in nature when you establish IV access. This greatly reduces lab turnaround times.

As a reminder, proper lab draw order is:

- **BLUE** Vial
- **YELLOW** Vial
- **(2) GREEN** Vials
- **LAVENDER** Vial

## The Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS)

The Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS) was derived from a simplification of the 15-item National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) and evaluates the presence or absence of facial palsy, asymmetric arm weakness, and speech abnormalities in potential stroke patients<sup>5</sup>. This scale tests for three possible signs of stroke, including facial droop, arm drift and speech abnormality. One abnormal finding out of three means that there is a greater than 70% chance that the patient is experiencing a stroke, while three abnormal findings indicate a >85% probability of stroke.

### Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (CPSS)

Sign/Symptom	How tested	Normal	Abnormal
Facial Droop	Have the patient show their teeth or smile	Both sides of the face move equally	One side of the face does not move as well as the other
Arm Drift	The patient closes their eyes and extends both arms straight out for 10 seconds	Both arms move the same, or both do not move at all.	One arm either does not move, or one arm drifts downward compared to the other.
Speech	The patient repeats "The sky is blue in Cincinnati".	The patient says correct words with no slurring of words.	The patient slurs words, says the wrong words, or is unable to speak

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Battalion Chief Rich Cluff.