



HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.
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Hudson Valley REMAC Advisory

Suspected Stroke

Issue Date – approved at REMAC 9.13.21

Updated 2.7.22

In the second quarter of 2022 the Hudson Valley and Westchester EMS regions will be going live with a new protocol to allow for stroke patients with a high likelihood of large vessel occlusion to be redirected to a hospital with the ability to perform a thrombectomy. This will provide significant benefit to the residents of our regions as it well known that time to thrombectomy has a significant impact to patient outcome.

It is imperative for all providers to become familiar with using this tool. Beginning April 1, 2022 receiving facilities will be anticipating the use of this with suspected stroke patients.

This advisory will define EMS use of Stratified Los Angeles Motor Scale (S-LAMS) to help determine where to transport potential stroke patients.

1. Follow NYS BLS Stroke Protocol.
2. ALS providers follow NYS ALS Stroke Protocol.
3. If Blood Glucose level is ≥ 60 mg/dl proceed to the S-LAMS evaluation.
4. Perform S-LAMS evaluation:
 - a. Facial Droop: Absent 0, Present +1
 - b. Arm Drift: Absent 0, Drifts down +1, Falls rapidly +2
 - c. Speech Deficit: Absent 0, Present +1
 - d. Grip Strength: Normal 0, Weak grip +1, No grip +2
5. If the S-LAMS score is ≤ 3 , the patient should go to the closest NYS DOH Designated Primary Stroke Center. [NYSDOH Stroke Designated Centers](#)
6. If the S-LAMS score is ≥ 4 check for exclusions.
7. The following are **exclusions** and if any are met the patient should be transported to a primary stroke center or an appropriate ED (e.g., trauma hospital)
 - a. Last known well time to EMS patient contact time is greater than 24 (twenty-four) hours.
 - b. Patient is bed-bound.
 - c. Seizure is the cause of symptoms.
 - d. Loss of Consciousness (LOC).



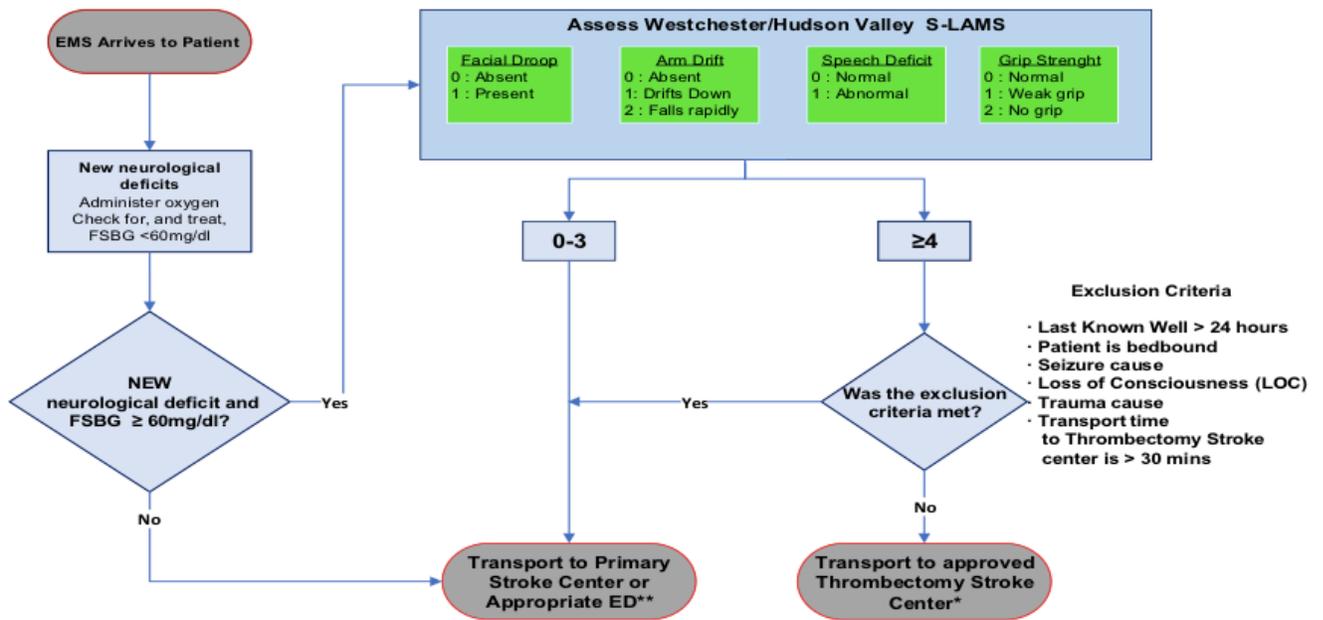
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- e. Trauma is the cause of symptoms.
 - f. Transport time to NYSDOH Designated Thrombectomy or Comprehensive Stroke Center is >30 minutes.
8. If there are no exclusions and the S-LAMS score is ≥ 4 , contact online medical control (OLMC) for a transport decision, often to the closest Designated Thrombectomy or Comprehensive Stroke Center.
- a. [NYSDOH Stroke Designated Centers](#)
 - b. You may also transport patients with a score of ≥ 4 to the closest HVREMAC* Recognized Provisional Thrombectomy or Comprehensive Stroke Center.

***Hospitals in the process of obtaining accreditation may be recognized by the HVREMAC if they meet certain criteria.**

The list of regionally recognized provisional sites will be posted on the [regional website](#).

WESTCHESTER-HUDSON VALLEY S-LAMS STROKE SCALE ASSESSMENT



* Per OLMC direction if transport time < 30 mins
 ** e.g., trauma, treated hypoglycemia with resolved symptoms



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S-LAMS Stroke Scale:

- 1) Assess for **Facial Droop** – have the patient show teeth or smile
 - a. Absent – if both side of the face move equally, the score is **0**.
 - b. Present – if one side of the face does not move as well as the other, the score is **1**.

- 2) Assess for **Arm Drift** – have the patient close eye and hold both arms straight out with palms facing up for 10 seconds.
 - a. Absent – if both arms remain up or move the same, the score is **0**.
 - b. Drifts down – if one arm drifts slowly down compared to the other arm, the score is **1**.
 - c. Falls rapidly – if one arm falls rapidly, the score is **2**.

- 3) Assess for **Speech Deficit** – have the patient say a simple sentence, for example, “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks”.
 - a. Formal – if the patient uses correct words with no speech slurring, the score is **0**.
 - b. Present – if the patient slurs words, uses the wrong words, or is unable to speak, the score is **1**.

- 4) Assess for hand **Grip Strength** – have the patient hold both of your hands and squeeze them at the same time.
 - a. Normal – if they squeeze both hands equally, the score is **0**.
 - b. Weak grip – if one hand has a weaker grip than the other, the score is **1**.
 - c. No grip – if one hand does not grip at all, the score is **2**.



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WESTCHESTER-HUDSON VALLEY S-LAMS		
Element	Findings	Score
Facial Droop	Absent	0
	Present	1
Arm Drift	Absent	0
	Drifts Down	1
	Falls Rapidly	2
Speech Deficit	Absent	0
	Present	1
Grip Strength	Normal	0
	Weak grip	1
	No grip	2
Total Score		0→6