



Stroke System Routing



On April 29, 2022, when the Alabama EMS Patient Care Protocols 10th Edition go into effect, EMSP will be required to use the Emergency Medical Stroke Assessment (EMSA) which will replace FAST. EMSA is a Severity Based Stroke Triage tool which screens for stroke and helps identify Large Vessel Occlusion (LVO) a severe form of stroke.

Stroke system patients are currently routed to the nearest available stroke center, regardless of the level of the stroke center. Routing will remain the same for the time being.

New Stroke System Rules went into effect on 3/17/2022. The rules create a new level of stroke center, Level IIa, Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (TSC). TSCs provide mechanical thrombectomy which, along with tPA are standard treatment for LVOs. The Office of EMS will begin the certification process for stroke centers which apply for Level IIa designation soon. Once TSCs have been certified in the Stroke System, regional stroke plans will be developed based on entry criteria and transport times. Until the updated regional plans are approved, ATCC will continue to route stroke patients to the nearest available stroke center.