

## Criteria for EMS to call a STROKE ALERT to ED:

### Stroke Alert Notification

#### Stroke Alert Criteria\*\*

- One or more abnormal findings on **stroke scale** or **sudden acute stroke symptoms** (below)
- Age  $\geq$  18
- Symptom onset or Time last known well is less than 4.5 hours
- Blood glucose is between 50-400 mg/dL or not available
- No severe trauma or witnessed seizure
- No obvious alternate diagnosis: ex. ETOH, OD, Bells Palsy

Notify ED as soon as practical; at least 10 minute notification time if possible

\*\*Stroke alert called even if symptoms have resolved

#### 1. One or more abnormal finding(s) of MASSACHUSETTS Stroke Scale

##### **FACIAL DROOP** (*Patient shows teeth or smiles*)

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

##### **ARM DRIFT** (*Patient closes eyes and extend both arms straight out for 10 seconds.*)

- Normal: There is no drift at all or both arms drift the same
- Abnormal: One arm drifts/moves down compared to the other arm or one arm noticeably weaker than the other.

##### **SPEECH** (*Score first attempt: Patient repeats, e.g. "The sky is blue in Boston."*)

- Normal: The Patient says the correct words with no slurring of words on first attempt.
- Abnormal: The patient slurs words, says the wrong words or is unable to speak on first attempt

OR

#### 2. One or more Sudden Acute Stroke Symptoms, including:

- *Sudden* numbness, weakness or paralysis of face, arm or leg - especially on one side of the body;
- *Sudden* confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech;
- *Sudden* trouble seeing in one or both eyes;
- *Sudden* trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; or
- *Sudden* severe headache with no known cause