



# OHIO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Robert L. Wagoner, Executive  
Director

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**Department of  
Public Safety**



Mike DeWine, Governor

Thomas J. Stickrath, Director

Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Robert L. Wagoner, Executive Director

To: All EMS agency medical directors, physician advisory board members, and EMS agencies  
From: Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS  
Date: February 11, 2022  
RE: Senate Bill 21: Second Reminder For Submission Of Agency-approved Stroke Protocol

Following approval of its revised acute stroke guideline by the Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services Board (EMFTS) on Dec. 15, 2021, as previously communicated, Senate Bill 21 requires the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board of each EMS organization to consult with one or more local hospitals to establish written protocols for the assessment, treatment, and transport of stroke patients to hospitals. **In order to comply with this law, a copy of each protocol must also be submitted to the EMFTS Board, the Department of Health, and the regional director or regional advisory board appointed under ORC 4765.05 by March 20, 2022.**

As a review, Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 21 into law on June 22, 2021, amending Ohio Revised Code 4765.401. The new legislation focused on emergency medical services and required the EMFTS Board to develop guidelines for the assessment, triage, and transport of stroke patients to hospitals by EMS personnel. During the development of these guidelines, the EMFTS Board was directed to consult with a diverse group of hospital leaders around Ohio, including those that represent large health systems, hospitals not affiliated with a large health system, and hospitals located in rural communities as well as comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke centers, and acute stroke ready hospitals recognized as such by the Ohio Department of Health. The final edited acute stroke guideline reflects this feedback and has been incorporated into the [State of Ohio Adult Guidelines and Procedures Manual](#) (pp. 83 – 86). This manual is provided solely as a resource, and its adoption is not mandatory. While the EMFTS Board has the authority to determine the scope of practice for certified

Ohio EMS providers, the medical director of each Ohio EMS agency, a physician who meets the qualifications in Ohio Administrative Code 4765-3-05, has the authority over the written protocols utilized by the Ohio EMS personnel for whom they provide oversight.

The EMFTS Board is cognizant of the varied EMS and healthcare resources that are available in the jurisdictions throughout Ohio. Emergency response systems may need to follow different operational pathways to achieve the same goals for patient care and outcomes. In the interest of seamless patient care, it is important for Ohio EMS medical directors and Ohio EMS agencies to collaborate with their respective healthcare systems and transport destinations to determine the parameters within their respective written protocols, taking local resources, transport times, certification levels of the responding EMS clinicians, and emergency department neurology protocols into consideration.

**We look forward to receiving an electronic copy (PDF format) of your updated stroke protocol by March 20, 2022. Be sure to include your agency's name, agency number, agency medical director's name, and only the approved stroke protocol for your agency. Please email the PDF copy to [EMSStrokeProtocol@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:EMSStrokeProtocol@dps.ohio.gov).** To assist medical director compliance with the law, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, division of EMS will forward copies of all stroke protocols received from Ohio EMS medical directors and EMS agencies to the appropriate regional physician advisory board or regional director.

**Please also forward an electronic copy (PDF format) of your updated stroke protocol to the Ohio Department of Health by email to:**

[odhemsstrokeprotocol@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:odhemsstrokeprotocol@odh.ohio.gov)

Thank you for your assistance, cooperation, and understanding as we continue working collaboratively to comply with this new law. It is our sincere hope that the updated State of Ohio acute stroke chapter will provide a valuable resource to support implementation of Senate Bill 21 in order to focus efforts to improve patient care and outcomes for stroke patients who receive initial management and transport by Ohio's EMS agencies.