

PHHS BLOCK GRANT SUCCESS STORY 2016

EMS STEMI AND STROKE SYSTEMS

STEMI AND STROKE REGULATIONS IMPROVEMENTS ARE IN THE WORKS.

Issue: Every 43 seconds, someone in the United States has a heart attack¹. Heart disease is the number-one cause of adult deaths in California and across the United States.² Heart disease accounts for approximately 47,000 deaths each year and costs Californians approximately \$20 billion to treat. Stroke is the third-leading cause of death in California and the leading cause of long-term disability. Although the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority) has developed guidelines and standards for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to coordinate their response and treatment of STEMI and Stroke victims, delays in transport and the availability of specialized hospital facilities that have the proper equipment and staff to treat STEMI and Stroke victims effectively remain significant obstacles to reducing morbidity and mortality rates in California.

Intervention: To bridge the gaps found in the California STEMI and Stroke Critical Care System, EMS Authority personnel, working in concert with local EMS agencies (LEMSAs), and heart disease-prevention experts, used PHHS Block Grant funds to create and facilitate multi-disciplinary task forces to develop STEMI and Stroke Critical Care Regulations. The key areas being addressed are (1) hospital designation criteria, (2) data collection, (3) quality improvement processes, (4) time-critical intervention values, and (5) prehospital EMS policies.

Impact: Based on the technical assistance that the EMS Authority provides to LEMSAs, 27 LEMSAs have been identified as developing/implementing a STEMI or Stroke Critical Care System to meet the STEMI and Stroke Critical Care standards and guidelines in preparation for the pending STEMI and Stroke Critical Care regulations.