

**OKALOOSA COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>STEMI Transfer Exercises</b>
<b>Policy:</b>	<b>512.00</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>The purpose of this policy is to standardize the process for exercising a timed STEMI transfer from a non-interventional cardiac center to an interventional cardiac center.</b>

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**Background:**

Non-interventional cardiac centers often send critical STEMI cases to interventional centers for a higher level of care by ground ambulance. The response elements of each case are monitored by EMS and the sending facilities as functions of their quality assurance and process improvement requirements. When no transfers have been conducted in a three month period, the transfer must be exercised and the response elements documented as required by the affected agencies' clinical performance improvement programs.

**Policy:**

When the need for an exercise of the response elements of a STEMI transfer arises, the Director of the sending facility's Cardiac Catheterization Lab will notify the EMS Chief as far in advance of the exercise deadline as possible so schedules and resources can be coordinated. Once a date and time of the exercise is established, the EMS Chief will implement the STEMI Transport Exercise Coordination.

**STEMI Transport Exercise Coordination Plan:**

1. EMS Chief will advise the EMS Shift Commander responsible for the shift on which the exercise will occur of the exercise date. The date will be recorded in the Shift Commander's work calendar and recorded in the daily briefing report.
2. EMS Chief will advise the 911/Communications Chief of the exercise date.
3. The target time for every STEMI Transport Exercise will be 08:00 hours.
4. The EMS Shift Commander and 911 / Communications Shift Supervisor will confirm the exercise with the sending Cath Lab Director no less than one hour before the exercise is scheduled to begin. They will also coordinate with their respective participating subordinates to ensure the appropriate resources are in place no less than 30 minutes before the exercise is to begin.
5. A balloon pump should be anticipated in every case, real or exercised.
  - a. Dispatch will follow normal dispatching protocol for Specialty Care Transfers (SCT). Dispatch Supervisors will ensure that all information regarding SCT equipment and staffing requirements is collected at the time of the call and forwarded to the responding unit.
  - b. EMS Supervisors will verify that stretcher mounts on the transporting vehicle are serviced and properly functioning prior to the beginning of the exercise.
6. The transporting unit will arrive at the sending facility, configure the ambulance to accommodate the balloon pump, and then make contact with the patient in the cath lab.
7. The transporting unit will load the exercise patient, equipment and sending facility staff member (if needed) and transport to the receiving facility under exercise conditions (no lights or sirens).

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8. All times will be monitored and recorded by EMS Dispatch and the exercise will end with arrival at the receiving facility.
9. The EMS Shift Commander will report the exercise times to the sending Cath Lab Director by email immediately upon exercise completion. Exercise times will also be recorded in the Commander's shift briefing report.

**Accountability and Compliance:**

It is the responsibility of all stakeholders in the exercise process to follow the policy and procedures outlined in the STEMI Transport Exercise Plan. The EMS Training Office will report all exercise activities to the Senior Staff quarterly.

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