


County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department



Emergency Medical Services Agency
976 Lenzen Avenue, Suite 1200
San José, CA 95126
408.885.4250 voice 408.885.3538 fax
www.sccemsagency.org

November 9, 2011

To: Santa Clara County Acute Care Hospitals/911 Receiving Facilities:
Chief Executive Officers
Chief Medical Officer
Chief Nursing Officer
Emergency Department Nurse Managers

From: Eric Rudnick, MD, FACEP 
Medical Director

Subject: Implementation of Prehospital Therapeutic Hypothermia

Beginning on **February 2, 2012**; Santa Clara County paramedics will be initiating a mild therapeutic hypothermia protocol, before arriving at the receiving hospital, for specific post resuscitation cardiac arrest patients. The American Heart Association endorses the implementation of mild hypothermia for certain post cardiac arrest patients who gain a return of spontaneous circulation. Research has shown the induction of mild hypothermia may improve the patient's neurological function and to assist in reducing mortality.

Only non-trauma patients who meet the established criteria will be eligible for initiation of the therapeutic hypothermia procedure. Once the procedure has been initiated, it must be continued in the receiving hospital to be effective. If the hypothermia process is not continued after arrival at the hospital, the patient may experience greater neurological disability and a have lesser chance of survival.

Santa Clara County paramedics will provide notification to the emergency department prior to arrival at the hospital and to help insure that the hospital's receiving staff is aware that the procedure has been initiated. **It is essential the procedure is continued by the emergency department and in-house staff; otherwise use of the procedure may become counterproductive and may lead to a negative patient outcome.** Paramedics will transport these patients to a designated a "STEMI Receiving Facility".

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number provided or via email at eric.rudnick@phd.sccgov.org

*Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, George Shirakawa, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, Liz Kniss
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith*