



**NORTH SUBURBAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONSORTIUM
ADMINISTRATIVE / OPERATIONAL POLICY**

TITLE: Cardiogenic Shock / Patient Point-of-Entry

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PURPOSE: Cardiogenic shock, the most severe form of pump failure, occurs when left ventricular function is so compromised that the heart cannot meet the metabolic demands of the body and compensatory mechanisms are exhausted. It usually occurs after extensive myocardial infarction, often involving more than 40% of the left ventricle, or from diffuse ischemia.

POLICY: Patients presenting in cardiogenic shock due to acute myocardial infarction (AMI) will be transported to the nearest hospital with cardiac catheterization/cardiac surgery capabilities.

CRITERIA: Criteria which will be utilized in the Prehospital setting within the North Suburban Emergency Medical Consortium service area for the identification of these patients will include:

- Clinical presentation of chest pain consistent with AMI
- BP systolic < 90 mm Hg, **not responsive to normal saline bolus.**

- Prehospital 12-lead ECG indicative of AMI (exception=LBBB)

***(*SEE ADENDUM*)

Patients must meet ALL of the above criteria.

QUALITY ASSURANCE: Transport to a hospital with cardiac catheterization/cardiac surgery capabilities within the Consortium service area (**see below) will require the following:

- **Involvement of on- line medical direction in the decision-making process**

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- Prompt notification of the patient's primary care physician, if he/she is not on staff at the hospital to which the patient was transported. (Such patients will be identified by the paramedics upon arrival in the Emergency Department).
- Transfer or referral back to the patient's primary care physician after necessary emergency cardiac care, with full and appropriate documentation.
- Review of all such cases by physician representatives from each Consortium hospital.
- Data collection and review of all such cases by the Consortium Coordinator and Medical Director.

**Hospitals within the Consortium service area currently with full service cardiac facilities include:

LAHEY CLINIC

MOUNT AUBURN HOSPITAL

ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL (closest to Watertown Service area)

*****ADDENDUM to CRITERIA:** BP systolic < 90 mm HG **prior to the administration of NTG, not responsive to normal saline bolus or the administration of atropine if bradycardic.**
May 27, 1998

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