May 8, 2012

To: EMS System

From: Tammi McConnell, RN, MSN
OCEMS Program Manager

Subject: STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

Three years ago, Orange County Emergency Medical Services became the first in the nation to successfully implement a county-wide stroke system that incorporated prehospital triage of patients by paramedics to county-designated stroke centers. To date, paramedics and ambulances have transported over 4,500 patients with acute stroke symptoms to the Stroke Neurology Receiving Center’s (SNRC) listed below. As designated SNRC’s, these hospitals offer immediate medical and neurovascular interventions, rehabilitative services and stroke-related public education.

Hoag Hospital
Mission Hospital
Los Alamitos Medical Center
Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center
Saddleback Memorial Medical Center – Laguna Hills

University of California Irvine Medical Center
Western Medical Center Santa Ana
Saint Jude Medical Center
St. Joseph Hospital

In January 2012, an article entitled “Organization of a United States County System for Comprehensive Acute Stroke Care” was published in the Journal of Stroke describing the OC Stroke Neurology System. The article depicts the implementation process as being one with broad county and medical consensus which culminated in political support for the program by the 2009 OC Board of Supervisors. A meaningful appreciation is acknowledged to the medical professionals involved with the formation, analysis and publication of the first two years of SNRC data:

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(Topic Editor)
OCEMS Asst Medical Director, Dr. Ken Miller
Dr. Stephen Waldman
Dr. Anthony Ciabarra
Dana Stradling, BSN
Dr. Richard Dauben

Dr. Steven C. Cramer (Lead Author)
Dr. Ignacio M. Carrillo-Nunez
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In honor of May as Stroke Awareness Month, Orange County EMS is proud to acknowledge and thank the SNRC’s, Medical Directors, Stroke Nurse Coordinators and all of our Emergency Medical Services personnel for their dedication and commitment to providing quality stroke care to all citizens accessing the 9-1-1 system.

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