



**Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive**



Clinical Advisory

To: Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics, Emergency Medical Controllers
c.c.: NAS Leadership Team
From: Medical Director, National Stroke Clinical Programme
Date: September 5th 2011
Subject: **Pre-alerting of stroke patients**

Dear colleagues,

All stroke patients FAST positive (as per CPG 5/6.4.22 "Stroke") with symptom onset of 4 hours or less must be pre-alerted to the receiving Emergency Department.

FAST positive patients pre-alerted to the ED will have necessary assessment and investigations performed more rapidly, and also are more likely to receive thrombolysis (where available) than those not pre-alerted.¹

Currently not all EDs provide stroke thrombolysis, or do not do so on a 24 hour basis, but with the roll-out of the National Stroke Programme this will be addressed in the months ahead. In the interim it is prudent to pre-alert all of these patients as this will optimise the timely delivery of stroke thrombolysis where available.

**Dr. Cathal O'Donnell,
Medical Director,
National Ambulance Service,
Health Service Executive.**

¹ **Prehospital Notification by Emergency Medical Services Reduces Delays in Stroke Evaluation: Findings From the North Carolina Stroke Care Collaborative**
Mehul D. Patel, MSPH; Kathryn M. Rose, PhD; Emily C. O'Brien, MSPH; Wayne D. Rosamond, PhD.
Stroke. 2011;42:2263-2268.

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