



# McLean County Area EMS System

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## MEMO

**TO:** MCAEMS System Transport Providers, Communication Centers, ECRNs, and Hospitals  
**FROM:** Michael Crabtree, QA Coordinator  
**DATE:** 5/22/2014  
**RE:** Early Notification Procedures

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The early notification process within the MCAEMS System has been successful in decreasing definitive care times and improving patient care. This approach requires the cooperation and teamwork of a variety of members within the system and hospitals each and every time it is utilized. In order to remain successful, I would like to use this memo to remind and solidify the process.

- **Methods of Contact:** It is recommended that Prehospital providers should provide early notification through their dispatch center (If the dispatch center is willing to make early notifications to the hospital). For the patients that are being transported to Bloomington/Normal, the contact numbers to be utilized by dispatch centers are:
  - **Advocate BroMenn Medical Center:** (309) 454-7222
  - **OSF St. Joseph Medical Center:** (309) 663-9523
- **Terminology:** Universal terms should be used to decrease confusion. These terms should be utilized by providers when contacting dispatch centers and when dispatch centers call the hospital:
  - **“Trauma Alert”** for critical trauma patients
  - **“Positive STEMI”** for patients meeting the criteria for a positive STEMI situation
  - **“Positive FAST”** for patients meeting the criteria for a positive FAST exam
- **Required Information:** Although the purpose of an early notification report is designed to be short (with more critical information relayed during the “radio report”), some information is critical to accurately prepare for patients. Field providers *must* relay the following information to dispatch centers when requesting an early notification:
  - **“Trauma Alert”** – Hospital destination, estimated time of arrival (ETA) to facility
  - **“Positive STEMI”** – Hospital destination, ETA to facility
  - **“Positive FAST”** – Hospital destination, ETA to facility, time last seen normal
- **General Considerations:** Please also remember:
  - **PATIENT DESTINATION CHOICE PREVAILS** when determining destination. Advocate BroMenn and OSF St. Joseph are considered equidistant facilities within the system.
  - **“Outbound” early notifications** shall not be given by EMS providers or dispatch centers to hospitals. Outbound reports do not improve patient outcomes and often only confuse situations.

The dedication and efforts of all affiliated providers, dispatchers, and hospital staff continue to improve patient care within the System. By incorporating these practices into the early notification procedure, we can further enhance patient care and outcomes. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions.