



Amherst Fire District Procedure

Fibrinolytic/Heparin Screening

Clinical Indications:

- Rapid evaluation of a patient with suspected acute stroke, acute myocardial infarction, or acute pulmonary embolus that may benefit from thrombolysis.

Procedure:

1. Follow the appropriate protocol for patient's complaint to assess need for thrombolysis:
 - Cincinnati pre-hospital stroke scale or other instrument for suspected stroke.
 - 12-lead for suspected myocardial infarction
2. If the screen is positive, proceed to step 3.
3. History from the patient and/or family members, obtain and record the following information:
 - History of active bleeding within 10 days (to include GI)?
 - Surgery or trauma in the last 14 days?
 - History of stroke, cerebral aneurysm, other neurological symptoms?
 - New onset of altered mental status?
 - History of arteriovenous malformation (AVM)?
 - History of aneurysm?
 - Allergy to fibrinolytics or heparin?
 - Pregnancy?
 - Severe hypertension (systolic > 180 or diastolic > 110)?
 - Sharp or tearing chest pain radiating to the shoulder blades (suspected aortic dissection)?
 - Allergy to fibrinolytic or Heparin?
 - Prior treatment with a fibrinolytic? If so, which one?
3. Record all findings in the Patient Care Report (PCR).

Certification Requirements:

- Successfully complete an annual skill evaluation inclusive of the indications, contraindications, technique, and the possible complications of the procedure.