

# CVA Checklist

If Cincinnati Stroke Scale is POSITIVE (any one of the three tests shows abnormal findings), then assessment should include FAST-ED/Large Vessel Occlusion Screen. **LVO Screen by Paramedic Only**

## Cincinnati Pre-hospital Stroke Scale

**1. FACIAL DROOP:** Have patient show teeth or smile.



**Normal:**  
both sides  
of the face  
move equally



**Abnormal:**  
one side of  
face does not  
move as well  
as the other  
side

**2. ARM DRIFT:** Patient closes eyes & holds both arms out for 10 sec.



**Normal:**  
both arms  
move the  
same or both  
arms do not  
move at all



**Abnormal:**  
one arm does  
not move or  
drifts down  
compared to  
the other

**3. ABNORMAL SPEECH:** Have the patient say "you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

**Normal:** patient uses correct words with no slurring

**Abnormal:** patient slurs words, uses the wrong words, or is unable to speak

Item	FAST-ED Score	Descriptions
<b>Facial Weakness/Asymmetry</b>		<b>Ask the patient to smile or show teeth or gums</b>
Symmetrical Movement	0	Facial movement is symmetrical
Asymmetrical Movement	1	Unequal smile or grimace, or obvious facial asymmetry
<b>Arm weakness</b>		<b>Ask the patient to close eyes &amp; lift the patient's arms together palms up to 90 degrees if sitting and 45 degrees if supine and ask them to hold the position for 10 seconds, then let go.</b>
Normal	0	Both arms remain up >10 sec. or slowly drift down equally
Mild	1	One arm drifts down in <10 sec. but has antigravity strength
Moderate/Severe	2	Cannot maintain the arm against gravity and drops immediately
<b>Speech Content</b>		<b>Ask the patient to say a common phrase such as "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Have the patient name 3 common items.</b>
Normal	0	Speech content normal AND names 2-3 items correctly (if speech is slurred but makes sense and naming is correct score as normal)
Abnormal	1	Speech content clearly abnormal OR names only 0-1 items correctly
<b>Speech Comprehension</b>		<b>Ask the patient: "Show me two fingers"</b>
Normal	0	Patient shows two fingers
Abnormal	1	Patient cannot understand/does not show two fingers
<b>Eye deviation</b>		<b>Ask the patient to follow your finger while holding their head still</b>
Absent	0	No deviation, eyes move to both sides equally
Partial	1	Patient has clear difficulty when looking to one side (left or right)
Forced Deviation	2	Eyes are deviated to one side and do not move to the other side (e.g. cannot follow finger)
<b>Denial/Neglect-Weakness</b>		<b>Ask the patient: "Are you weak anywhere?"</b>
Normal	0	The patient recognizes that they are weak
Abnormal	1	The patient is weak but does NOT recognize they are weak
<b>Denial/Neglect</b>		<b>While holding the patient's weak arm, ask the patient: "Whose arm is this?"</b>
Normal	0	Patient recognizes the weak arm belongs to them
Abnormal	1	Patient does NOT recognize the weak arm belongs to them

## Screening Process for Stroke Routing

*This Checklist applies ONLY to adult patients (≥18 years old) with signs and symptoms of a CVA and **POSITIVE** Cincinnati Stroke Screen.*

- ☐ FAST-ED/Large Vessel Occlusion Screen (LVO). Document score ( $\geq 4$  = **positive** LVO screen)\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notify dispatch on radio of “**code stroke**”
- ☐ Determine Last known well time and document \_\_\_\_\_
  - This is the last confirmed time the patient was symptom free, NOT the time symptoms were first noticed.

**LKWT**

	<u><b>LVO &lt; 4</b></u>	<u><b>LVO ≥ 4</b></u>
<b>0-3.5 hrs</b>	CLOSEST	CLOSEST
<b>3.5-8 hrs</b>	CLOSEST	COMPREHENSIVE
<b>&gt;8 hrs</b>	CLOSEST	CLOSEST
<b>unknown</b>	CLOSEST	COMPREHENSIVE
<b>Wake-up 0-3.5 hrs</b>	CLOSEST	CLOSEST
<b>Wake-up &gt;3.5 hrs</b>	CLOSEST	COMPREHENSIVE

COMPREHENSIVE= KUMC, Research, St. Luke's Plaza

CLOSEST= closest stroke center regardless if primary stroke center or comprehensive stroke center

\*Primary stroke centers: Advent Shawnee Mission, Menorah, Olathe, OPR,  
St. Luke's South, St. Joseph

*\*Patients <18 years old with signs and symptoms concerning for CVA should be transported to Children's Mercy Hospital-Main regardless of time.*