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**GEORGIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/TRAUMA  
MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GEORGIA LICENSED EMS PROVIDERS  
**FROM:** MARTY BILLINGS *(wmb)*  
**SUBJECT:** SAMPLE STROKE ASSESSMENT TOOL  
**DATE:** 12/19/2008

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Realizing the importance of early detection and appropriate transport for patients suffering from a stroke, our legislators added a new code section (O.C.G.A. §31-11-115) during the 2008 legislative season. This code section requires the Department to adopt or develop a sample stroke assessment tool to be used by licensed EMS providers in Georgia. The Georgia Office of EMS has adopted the *Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale* as sample stroke triage assessment tool. Licensed EMS providers may choose to utilize this triage assessment tool or develop a similar type assessment tool for early identification of patients suffering from a stroke.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-11-115 (b) this sample assessment tool is being sent to all currently licensed EMS Providers, as well as being displayed on the Georgia Office of EMS's website located at [ems.ga.gov](http://ems.ga.gov) . A copy of the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale is attached for your reference.

Please feel free to contact our office if you should have any questions regarding this sample stroke triage tool. The Georgia Office of EMS/Trauma sincerely appreciates your dedication to improving care to all of our citizens.

# **CINCINNATI PREHOSPITAL STROKE SCALE**

## **Facial Droop**

- Normal: Both sides of face move equally  
Abnormal: One side of face does not move at all

## **Arm Drift**

- Normal: Both arms move equally or not at all  
Abnormal: One arm drifts compared to the other

## **Speech**

- Normal: Patient uses correct words with no slurring  
Abnormal: Slurred or inappropriate words or mute

## **References**

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Kothari RU, Pancioli A, Liu T, Brott T, Broderick J. "Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale: reproducibility and validity."  
Ann Emerg Med 1999 Apr;33(4):373-8