

# Implementation of the New Zealand Out-of-Hospital STEMI Pathway in the Bay of Plenty Area

## Background

In late 2016, the New Zealand Out-of-Hospital STEMI Pathway was signed off by the National Cardiac Network. During the last 12 months, St John has worked with the Midland Cardiac Network and Bay of Plenty DHB (BOPDHB) to develop an Out-of-Hospital STEMI Pathway for the Bay of Plenty Area, which includes ambulance personnel transporting patients to Tauranga Hospital for primary PCI when the cardiac cath lab is immediately available and administering fibrinolytic therapy in the out-of-hospital setting (unless contraindicated) and transporting the patient directly to Waikato Hospital if the Tauranga cath lab is unavailable. The STEMI pathway has been developed in conjunction with the BOPDHB cardiology team and will go live on **27 July 2020**.

The aim of the STEMI pathway is to reduce the time it takes for patients to receive reperfusion therapy, provide a consistent approach to which reperfusion therapy patients receive and ensure patients are transported to the most appropriate hospital, first time.

## Key messages for primary care personnel when treating a patient with STEMI are:

- ▶ When encountering a patient with STEMI, an ambulance should be arranged as soon as possible as per current practice.
- ▶ Road and air ambulances staffed by Paramedics and Intensive Care Paramedics (ICPs) are now equipped with a fibrinolytic kit containing clopidogrel, tenecteplase, heparin, enoxaparin and metoprolol.
- ▶ As part of the STEMI Pathway, Paramedics and ICPs will administer fibrinolytic therapy ASAP, irrespective of distance to the nearest hospital if the Tauranga Hospital cath lab is unavailable. Depending on the preferences of the treating primary care clinician and the clinical circumstances, fibrinolysis can be administered in either the primary care facility or in the ambulance.
- ▶ Primary care clinicians are not expected to be proficient in the administration of fibrinolytic therapy, but are encouraged to assist Paramedics and ICPs (who have all received specific training) in administering the therapy.
- ▶ Following the administration of fibrinolytic therapy, ambulance personnel will transport the patient to a PCI capable hospital. If the Tauranga Hospital cath lab is unavailable, the patient will be transported directly to Waikato Hospital, whenever it is feasible and safe to do so.
- ▶ Because patients with STEMI will not always be transported to Tauranga Hospital, primary care clinicians are not required to phone a clinician at the nearest hospital prior to ambulance arrival to arrange admission or have the patient accepted.

## Questions

If you have any questions regarding the STEMI pathway, please email [clinical.excellence@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:clinical.excellence@stjohn.org.nz)