

Hospital Activations/Pre-Arrival Alerts

Who: Any patient with suspected **severe trauma, stroke, STEMI, cardiac arrest**, obstetrics, or sepsis that is being transported to a hospital.

What: Use the **Hospital Activations structured fields to document your radio or cell phone report to the ED notifying them of an incoming time-sensitive patient.** Your call to the hospital constitutes an Activation/Alert regardless of hospital protocols - these fields capture EMS activity, not the hospital's response.

Why: Correct documentation of hospital activations/alerts for time-sensitive patients improves data quality, supports quality improvement efforts, and creates a timestamped record that protects your agency in the event of a liability question. Pre-arrival alerts reduce elapsed time before treatment and ensure appropriate hospital resources are mobilized before the patient arrives – this is especially critical in Montana, where transport times can be long.

How: Use the Hospital Activation section of the ePCR [*Transport/Destination Info* → *Hospital Activation*]

Examples:

1. **STEMI:** Alerting the hospital within 10 minutes of a STEMI-positive ECG is a key quality indicator, because it allows the receiving facility to prepare the appropriate response – whether that means activating a cath lab or arranging transfer to a higher level of care. 2025 Montana data show this benchmark is met only 7% of the time for STEMI 911 transports.
2. **Severe Trauma:** Some hospitals allow EMS to initiate a full or partial trauma activation from the field; others don't - but either way, your call to the ED should be documented in the structured fields. 2025 Montana data shows hospital activations documented for only 26% of severe trauma patients. As Montana's trauma system continues to develop EMS-focused quality improvement measures, accurate documentation is essential to evaluating and improving EMS performance.

Example ePCR Hospital Activation section

Hospital Activation

Hospital Designation: [dropdown]

Hospital Team Activations

+ Add

Destination Team Pre-Arrival Alert or Activation:
STEMI [dropdown]

Date/Time of Destination Prearrival Alert or Activation:
10/25/2022 15:15:00

Multiple activations/alerts can be added

Include the type of activation/alert as well as the date and time.

Note that you can also document if you did not do an alert

- No Alert/Activation
- Trauma Alert - Full Activation
- Trauma Alert - Partial Activation
- Cardiac Arrest
- STEMI
- Stroke
- Obstetrics
- Confirmed Isolation Precaution Exposure
- Possible Isolation Precaution Exposure
- Sepsis
- Yes-Other