

## **Appropriateness of Air Medical Transport** **in Acute Coronary Syndromes**

### **Position Statement of The Air Medical Physician Association**

Approved by the AMPA Board of Trustees  
November 10, 2001

#### **BACKGROUND**

Acute Coronary Syndromes and common reasons to utilize Air Medical Transport. Regionalization of cardiac care to highly specialized centers, increasing use of invasive and time sensitive therapies, and efforts to minimize both the absolute time to therapy and the dangerous out of hospital time are significant drivers in improving cardiac care and for increasing the utilization of air medical transport.

#### **AMPA POSITION STATEMENT**

AMPA supports the use of air medical transport for adult patients with acute coronary syndromes requiring or potentially requiring urgent/time-sensitive intervention not available at the sending facility.

As outlined by the American Heart Association, acute coronary syndromes represents the spectrum of clinical disease presenting with syndromes ranging from unstable angina to Q-wave and non-Q-wave myocardial infarctions.

It is AMPA's position that the determination for the need for urgent/time-sensitive interventions is made by a physician, as documented on a written Certification of Medical Necessity.

Furthermore, AMPA acknowledges that scene air medical transport of acute coronary syndromes occurs routinely and supports that the medical necessity is determined by the requesting authorized provider based on regional policy and their best medical judgment at the time of the request for transport. AMPA supports that a

receiving physician or the transport program medical director may complete the Certificate of Medical Necessity on scene transports.

AMPA does not support the use of discharge ICD-9 codes or other methodologies that retrospectively determine medical appropriateness of acute coronary syndromes as this may adversely restrict access to appropriate care and may contradict the intent of EMTALA regulations. AMPA also believes that retrospective determination of medical appropriateness also negates the regional, environmental, level of prehospital care, and situational issues that are important factors at the time of transport in determining medical appropriateness for air medical transport in acute and potentially acute coronary syndromes.