Dear Physicians and Providers:

In 2010, the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency started our Countywide ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) System. Paramedics perform 12-lead ECGs and transport all patients with a STEMI directly to one of our two STEMI Receiving Centers – Marian Regional Medical Center and Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital - for immediate treatment.

First Medical Contact-to-Device Activation (reperfusion of coronary artery) is the standard of clinical performance in National STEMI care. The target is **90 minutes or less**.

In 2013,
- 📈 **93%** of Santa Barbara County patients for whom 911 was called had FMC-to-reperfusion of **90 minutes or less**.
- 📈 Since STEMI System inception, improvements in **all target measures** have been seen.

**IN THE CLINIC, OFFICE, OR URGENT CARE, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING - IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE TIME TO REPERFUSION:**

1. **Immediately call 9-1-1** for symptoms suggestive of ACS (note that 1/3 of patients with AMI experience symptoms *other than* chest pain).
2. **Consider calling 9-1-1 early in the evaluation.** In the past year there have been several cases of a prolonged time to reperfusion because of a more extensive pre-hospital evaluation/observation.
3. **Ensure that all symptomatic persons are transported and cared for by EMS.** For patients calling in, consider advising them to call 9-1-1.
   - ~1 in every 300 patients will suffer cardiac arrest en route to the ED.
   - Arrival by ambulance = earlier reperfusion.

**Thank you for helping to improve our STEMI System of Care!**

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