



**The Norman Knight Nursing Center
for Clinical & Professional Development**

PCAs Quick Reference: MGH Inpatient STEMI / Acute MI Response

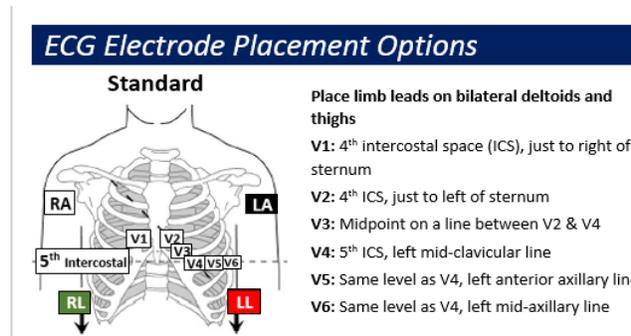
What is a STEMI?

Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) occurs when a patient is experiencing a heart attack known as an acute myocardial infarction (MI).

- Heart cells in the heart muscle need oxygen.
- When blood flow is blocked and no oxygen is being delivered to the heart muscle it causes the muscles to become ischemic (not enough oxygen & nutrients) resulting in the patient having a heart attack.
- “Time is Muscle!” – getting a patient treatment in the Cardiac Cath Lab as soon as possible is key to a positive outcome
- Acute MI (AMI) = an event of myocardial necrosis (heart cell death that occurs during a heart attack) caused by an unstable ischemic syndrome, often caused by a blocked coronary artery.
 - impaired blood flow to the heart muscle → leads to myocardial necrosis
- “STEMI” = an AMI which involves the full thickness of the heart muscle - usually one wall or segment of the heart - which is shown by elevation of the ST segments on EKG

What do you need to know?

- Nurses and PCAs are often “First Responders” on the inpatient units
 - Recognizing signs & symptoms (chest discomfort, shortness of breath, nausea, sweating) & letting the nurse know right away
 - Obtaining an accurate ECG by ensuring that leads are placed correctly
 - Getting a patient to the Cardiac Cath Lab as quickly as possible once signs & symptoms begin



What is the role of the PCA (under the direction of the RN)?

- Let the nurse know right away if your patient is having any signs & symptoms of a MI
- Prepare for and perform an ECG using landmarks for accurate lead placement
- Be sure to enter patient’s last & first name spelled correctly & add a “00” to a 7-digit Medical Record Number (MRN)
- Ensure the ECG is properly transmitted to MUSE (attach phone cable to ECG machine)
- Prepare to help transfer the patient to the Cardiac Cath Lab on Blake 9