

Heart Systems of Care



The Kentucky Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force's Heart Systems of Care committee collaborates with various health care sites throughout Kentucky to implement statewide, evidence-based integrated cardiovascular health delivery systems to improve statewide cardiovascular systems of care. This implementation occurs through two prioritized strategies:

- Identifying and improving current heart systems of care
- Engaging receiving hospitals to work with its referral base to improve patient outcomes

Heart Systems of Care emphasizes standardized ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) transport and care through the use and adoption of national quality assurance initiatives that focus on acute cardiovascular care. This process of standardization focuses also on continuous EMS education, training, and feedback in order to optimize outcomes. Necessary engagement with the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS) is provided through Heart Systems of Care in order to accomplish these outcomes. Through consistent collaboration with KBEMS, Heart Systems of Care focuses on reviewing and recommending evidence-based cardiovascular practices. There is additionally an emphasis on referral compliance and standardization to improve patient outcome and transfer policies.

In addition to system and process outcomes, patient education is provided to patients, families, and the public on recognizing the signs and symptoms of Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) and the need to call 911 immediately. Education is an important component used by Heart Systems of Care to prevent and improve cardiovascular outcomes throughout Kentucky.