

EMS Beat



News You Can
Use From the
Office of EMS
Activities

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

“Hypothermia” – Getting Hot on a Cold Topic

Summa Squads Begin Cooling Process

Patients effectively resuscitated from cardiac arrest will now be cooled as part of a new post cardiac arrest protocol. Current evidence suggests that this intervention saves more cardiac arrest victims and allows them to leave the hospital neurologically intact and thus able to resume life as before. Several area hospitals have already begun to cool selected patients but the process typically doesn't begin until they have been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. It really needs to begin at the time of return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) in the field. Consequently, squads using Akron City Hospital as their med control will now begin to cool the cardiac arrest victim immediately upon restoration of a pulse using ice packs, cold saline and “undressing” of the patient. Anyone interested in this protocol should contact the EMS office at 330-379-9630.

Changes in Cardiac Arrest Protocols for Summa Squads

Recognizing the importance of chest compressions and aggressive early resuscitation, our squad protocols are changing. In all instances chest compressions are the first intervention after confirming that there is no pulse or respiration, which should take no more than ten seconds. In a witnessed arrest the compressions are done only until a defibrillator is ready to analyze and defibrillate. In the event the arrest was not witnessed by the medics a full round of 200 uninterrupted chest compressions (200 or 2 minutes) will be given while the other team members assemble their equipment. Following this the remaining rounds of CPR will be performed using cycles with a 30:2 compression to ventilation ratio as is currently taught by the AHA. Assuming there are no issues with scene safety the team is also being directed to

stay in place as long as possible, but at least for four rounds. Ideally they will remain until either return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) is achieved or resuscitation efforts are terminated and the patient is pronounced.

Protocol Testing for Summa Squads Starting January 2009

This month all Summa squads will receive their first protocol test. It will cover topics reviewed in the fall 2008 CE sessions including the new cardiac arrest protocols currently being implemented. A separate test has been written for Basic EMTs and Paramedics.

The test is mandatory for all EMT's including part time and contractual workers. The next protocol test will be in May and it will cover the spring CE topics.

Congratulations to the Summa St. Thomas Paramedic Program Class of 2008

The office of EMS Activities, the Department of Emergency Medicine and the staff at Summa Health System welcomes our newest graduates and we look forward to working with them in the future.

Adam Black
Jesse Brown
Matt Dietrick
Kendrick Ertley
Randall Green
Kellie Grinder
Mike Guld
Justin Lown
Brian Lucy
Anthony McDaniel
Matt Naylor
Monica Powers
Iva Rosekelly
Matt Smith
Michelle Smith
Gabe Tabling
Brad Witschey

Summa CE Topics for the Spring

February will be a review of selected trauma topics including extremity trauma, burns, and eye injuries. In March we will review behavioral emergencies, seizures and strokes. Finally in April we will cover WMD and Hazmat. A protocol test covering the appropriate protocols will be distributed in the months to follow.

Summa's Senior EM Residents Certified EMS Instructors

This fall all nine senior emergency medicine residents became certified as EMS instructors by the Ohio EMS Board. This will allow them to better assist in EMS trainings both before and after graduation from residency and is another example of Summa's commitment to the EMS community.

Zofran Now an Option to Phenergan on Summa Squads

Now available as a generic and costing about the same as phenergan, Zofran is an excellent alternative to phenergan. Like phenergan, it can be given IV or IM, however it does not need to be dosed differently for the elderly patients and it is much less sedating. Furthermore extrapyramidal reactions such as akathisia or the feeling of restlessness are almost unheard of. Finally it can be used in children and hopefully will be included in a future revision of the pediatric protocols.

Past Editions

Missed the first editions of EMS Beat? Contact Jon Zalewski at 330-379-9582 or zalewskj@summa-health.org to request a copy.

New Ortho Hospital and ED Construction Delayed

Due to the current economic conditions the new orthopedic hospital and emergency department that was to be built on the Akron City campus of Summa Health Systems has been temporarily delayed. It is hoped that the economy will improve in the coming year and construction will be able to resume then. Look to the EMS Activities office and a future issue of EMS Beat to keep you informed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NORTN Regional Trauma Conference

March 31, 2009
Akron City Hospital
1100-1300

Please visit our website for the most current information on upcoming events.

www.summahealth.org

We are the EMS / Paramedic Program link that can be found under the career center tab. Events from all Summa Health System hospitals will be made available at this location.