

EMS Beat



News You Can
Use From the
Office of EMS
Activities

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008

New and Revised Summa Health System Protocols for EMS Respiratory, Chest Pain (& STEMI), Shock and Allergy

For squads using Summa protocols the new year brings with it new and revised protocols. The respiratory distress, chest pain and shock protocols have been revised and a new protocol has been added for allergies. Here are a few of the highlights.

Respiratory distress

For severe respiratory distress CPAP is now an EMT-Basic intervention. Squads can now add atrovent to albuterol for patients needing an aerosol. Prednisone, a steroid, can be given as well. For those patients having severe respiratory distress felt to be an allergic response and not responding to the above interventions, Epinephrine can be given. Nitroglycerin is being encouraged before Lasix and Morphine has been removed.

Chest Pain (& STEMI)

For chest pain, all EMTs will now use the same systolic BP of 100 as the cut off for administering Nitroglycerin (in CHF the same cut off is used as well). A cautionary

(See protocols on next page)

Congratulation's to our new BASIC EMTs

This past November/December the following individuals graduated from Summa's Basic EMT program:

TJ BITTNER
DANIEL GREEN
BRIAN GRIFFIN
JOELLEN MANIJAK
JULIA MANIJAK
MATTHEW NAYLOR
IVA ROSEKELLY
MATTHEW SMITH
MICHELLE SMITH
DON WILLIAMS

Several of them have gone on to pursue paramedic studies at St. Thomas, while others are out serving their communities. We welcome them into the EMS community and the house of medicine and look forward to working with them. Congratulations, God speed and good luck on your journey.

Heavy Patients go to City Hospital and not St. Thomas

As most are probably aware Summa has a bariatric center for the treatment of morbidly obese patients at the City campus. These people require special beds and hoists as well as the staff trained to handle them. St. Thomas is simply not equipped to take care of these patients properly. Consequently all obese patients including those requiring psychiatric or orthopedic care are best served at the City campus and should be transported there and not to St. Thomas. As a rule this includes anyone weighing more than 350 pounds or requiring more than two people to move.

Ambulate and Check Invalid Assists

When attending or assisting a person on an invalid assist, it may be tempting to get out of there as quickly as you can and back into service. However, to spare you a call back later, it is helpful to spend a few minutes with the patient to ensure that they are truly okay.

(Protocols continued)

note about the use of Nitroglycerin in patients taking sexually enhancing medications has been added. Although it may be prudent to do in some patients, an IV is no longer necessary before the administration of Nitro. Aspirin is now part of the EMT-B treatment of chest pain and can be given (not assisted). This reflects Ohio scope of practice guidelines. Lopressor, a B-blocker, is being introduced as a paramedic intervention for chest pain patients who would benefit from having their heart rate and blood pressure lowered. It will be a med control order for acute coronary syndrome and a standing order in the new prehospital STEMI orders.

For patients who are diagnosed as having a STEMI (ST elevation MI), and the cath lab has been notified, there is a STEMI protocol within the chest pain protocol in which paramedics should administer Lopressor as a standing order and can give Plavix as med control order. If possible the patient's weight should be determined and called into the ED with the patient's name so that Reopro can be premixed.

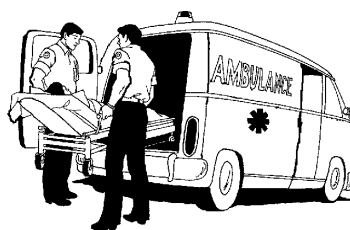
Allergy

The new allergy protocol clarifies the treatment of allergic reactions especially for the patients with history of allergies resulting in Epi-Pen prescriptions or ICU admissions. Prednisone can be used in addition to Benadryl that is already in use. Epinephrine IM is a standing order for paramedics in severe allergic reaction cases.

New Disaster Coordinator and Director at Summa Health System

Recognizing the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness Summa recently appointed Robin Brown, RN as the emergency preparedness coordinator. A long time experienced administrator within Summa Health System, Robin Brown is excited about her new position and looks forward to working on the hospital's disaster plans and with area disaster preparedness and emergency response leaders. She can be contacted at 330-379-5696.

Robin is being joined by Dr. Peter Listerman, M.D., FACEP who will be the physician director for disaster and emergency preparedness. Dr. Listerman is an emergency physician at Summa Health System and is also the medical director for Hartville Fire and Rescue. He has extensive background as a Navy physician where he worked on numerous vessels including aircraft carriers and participated in numerous mass casualty exercises and disaster drills. During this time he also did medical missions in Bosnia and was a flight surgeon for NASA, where he covered several space shuttle launches. His experiences will be invaluable to the hospital and community. He can be reached through the EMS office at 330-379-9630.



(Ambulate continued)

In the case of an ambulating patient this means checking them to ensure that they can still walk, and of course documenting this. We have had a number of cases in which a patient was hurt on an invalid assist and it was missed on the first visit.

More St. Thomas Paramedic Classes Opening up for CE

Pending speaker confirmation, many more lectures will open up to the community for CE credit in the coming months. Open classes in the next couple of months include:

Medical legal

Dr. Michael Frank
1/28 @ 6 pm

Abuse and Assault (SANE)

Jill Bunell, RN & Dr. Steer
2/4 @ 6 pm

Communicable Diseases

Louann Metz, EMT-P
2/6 @ 6 pm

Shock: Hypovolemic, Anaphylactic, Septic, Cardiogenic

Jim Farina EMT-P
2/11 @ 6 pm

All classes posted are at St. Thomas Hospital in the auditorium.

If you have any ongoing questions or ideas contact the EMS Activities Office at 330-379-9630.

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