



Emergency Medical Services *Partners*

April 2017, Issue 83

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Bristol EMS Does it Right!



Bristol EMS has brought seven STEMI's to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital** in 2017. Every STEMI was preactivated from the field, and most went straight up to the cath lab on the EMS stretcher. The door to balloon times were 50, 28, 30, 20, 42 and 22 minutes. Check out these numbers for early notification: 28, 15, 31, 25, 16, 25 and 15 minutes advance notification. These early alerts enable our cath lab team to prepare for the patient's arrival. Here's the perfect example. Shortly after midnight, **Bristol EMS** paramedic Enis Mara and his partner Michael Benson responded for a 50- year-old male with severe chest pain. They found him pale, cool and and diaphoretic. Mara did an immediate 12-lead ECG, which showed elevation in the inferior leads. He called in a **STEMI Alert** from the scene. At the UConn Emergency Department Dr. Genevieve O'Connell activated the cardiac cath lab. The **25 minute early notification** enabled the cath lab staff to arrive simultaneously with the patient. In the lab, Dr. JuYong Lee and team found an occluded first obtuse marginal artery which they successfully cleared and stented, restoring perfusion. **69 Minute First Medical Contact from Bristol to Balloon in the UConn cath lab!** Kudos to Mara and Benson and all the Bristol responders who have also brought in STEMI's this year. Paramedics Robert George, Brian LaForge, Adam Ordway, Matt Klimovich, Mary Ellen Maynard, Tyler Barth, and Bestsy Austin; EMTs Melissa Patrick, Chris Begey, Tony Betz, and Gregory Adamowicz. Thank you for your sustained excellence!

UConn JDH Medics Cardiac Arrest Save



UConn JDH Fire Department paramedics Tony Ruggiero and John Pickert helped the on-call cardiac cath lab team in the emergency stabilization of a STEMI patient who suffered sudden cardiac arrest. The pair received accolades from the cath lab team, who recognized the two paramedics for "their outstanding service, dedication, and team work." The patient was revived, her critical occlusions were stented and cleared and she survived to be discharged back to her home with full neurological function. The UConn Fire Department has been an integral part of the **UConn John Dempsey Hospital's** STEMI team, which has won both the hospital and the Fire Department American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline Gold Awards for two consecutive years. Great job!

UConn JDH 3rd Annual Emergency Stroke Care Conference May 18, 2017-Save the Date

Our third annual stroke conference will be held on Thursday May 18, 2017, from 8-4 in the new Academic Rotunda at the UConn Health Center. Speakers will discuss the acute stroke care continuum — from prehospital care and the emergency department, through ICU, hospital stay, and discharge. Register online today or call 860.679.7692.

Canton EMS STEMI Care!

Great job by **Canton EMS** on two STEMI calls this March. Canton paramedic David Veith and his partner Mike Messenger responded as mutual aid deep into Barkhamsted where they found an 82-year-old man with substernal chest pain. Veith did an immediate 12-lead ECG which revealed ST elevation in Leads II, III, and aVF. He called in a **STEMI Alert** from the patient's home, providing **52 minutes of early notification**. The EMS crew had a difficult extrication as their ambulance was unable to make it up the hill to the patient's home due to a steep driveway. Nevertheless, they successfully extricated the patient, transported to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital** and still beat the 90 Minute First Medical Contact-to-Balloon benchmark! (24 DTB, 89 FMC). Veith and Messenger watched in the cardiac cath lab where cardiologist Dr. Peter Schulman narrated the procedure. Earlier in the month, Canton paramedic Devin McDermott and partner Jeff Davis called in a STEMI Alert for a patient who had a 24 Minute DTB/56 FMC.



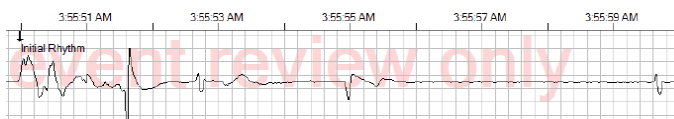
Fentanyl Continues to Fuel Rise in CT Overdose Deaths

In 2012, there were 14 overdose deaths attributed to Fentanyl. In 2015, there were 188. In figures recently announced by the Connecticut Medical Examiner, 479 people died of Fentanyl-related overdoses in Connecticut in 2016. Fentanyl, a white powder 50 X stronger than heroin, is indistinguishable by sight from white heroin and is often sold on the street as heroin or mixed with heroin. The Fentanyl trend shows no sign of abating as Fentanyl, which can be made in a laboratory, is far more lucrative than heroin for drug suppliers. EMS treatment for drug overdose patients found with respiratory depression should focus first on bag-valve mask respiration, followed by the administration of Naloxone, when appropriate.

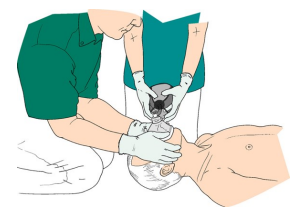


West Hartford Bradycardia/Respiratory Arrest

A West Hartford man is thankful for the rapid response and care provided by the **West Hartford Fire Department** and responders from **American Medical Response**. WHFD paramedic Taylor Salva and the team from Station 2 and AMR paramedic Marcos Rodriguez and his partner Amanda Longo found an elderly man with irregular respirations, low pulse SAT and no radial pulse. The monitor revealed an irregular brady arrhythmia between 10 and 20 beats a minute.



They assisted respirations with a bag-valve mask, ran IV fluids and Salva began pacing obtaining capture at 80 ma. By arrival at UConn John Dempsey Hospital the man had a pressure of 101/70, was being paced at 70 beats a minute and had a O2 SAT of 95%. He continued to be paced at the hospital where he was also intubated. He eventually received a pacemaker and is doing well. Great teamwork all!



Naloxone Use

- Ensure scene safety!
- Maintain appropriate Body Substance Isolation (BSI)
- Assess level of consciousness and vital signs
- Maintain open airway and provide tactile stimulation
- Assist ventilations with bag-valve mask, good seal is required; two person method preferred
- Ensure appropriate resources are responding
- Administer naloxone when indicated
- Initiate transport as soon as possible (BLS should not wait on scene for paramedic)
- Be prepared for a return of overdose signs & symptoms!
 - The effects of naloxone may not last as long as the effects of the opioid
- Encourage patient transport to definitive care
- Physician or police interacting with the patient may assist in eliciting transport approval

31 Minute Door-to-Needle

Bristol EMS paramedic Michael Gajdosik and his partner Bob Kiepps responded for a man with sudden onset of right sided facial droop, right sided paralysis and aphasia. They noted the time of onset and called in a Stroke Alert to UConn John Dempsey Hospital where they proceeded directly to CT scan. The CT scan shows no signs of hemorrhage so the decision was made to give tPA. The patient received tPA in a **Door-to-Needle time of 31 Minutes!** The National benchmark is 60 Minutes. Great job!



STROKE PEARLS

Possible Strokes should be transported in the same manner as STEMI or major trauma. While your patient may be hemodynamically stable, the definitive treatment –tPA– is an extremely time dependent therapy. tPA works better the sooner it is given. While the time window for tPA is up to 3 (in some cases up to 4.5) hours, tPA works better and with less risk the sooner it is given. Remember every second stroke patients lose 32,000 brain cells.

Stroke Care Checklist

When transporting stroke patients to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**, please include the following key points in your radio patches and documentation.



1. Last Known Time Without Symptoms
 2. Cincinnati Stroke Scale
 3. Blood Glucose Tested
 4. Acute Stroke Alert Called to Hospital*
- Early Notification Saves Lives. Call from the scene if possible rather than from 2-3 minutes out.

Cincinnati Stroke Scale

The Cincinnati Stroke Scale consists of three components.

Facial Droop

Normal: Both sides of face move equally

Abnormal: One side of face does not move at all

Arm Drift

Normal: Both arms move equally or not at all

Abnormal: One arm drifts compared to the other

3) Abnormal Speech

Normal: Patient uses correct words with no slurring

Abnormal: Slurred or inappropriate words or mute

SAVE THE DATE.

Emergency Stroke Care Conference

Thursday, May 18, 2017

DATE AND TIME

Thursday, May 18, 2017
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

LOCATION

UConn Health
Academic Rotunda
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT

TOPICS

Speakers will discuss the acute stroke care continuum – from prehospital care and the emergency department, through ICU, hospital stay, and discharge.

REGISTRATION

[Register online](#) today or call 860.679.7692.

**UConn
HEALTH**

THE POWER OF POSSIBLE.

health.uconn.edu/stroke-center

**EMS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:
CHILD ABUSE CASES/APRIL CME**



Senior Assistant State's Attorney Brett Salafia, and well-known and highly respected former 1990's era Hartford paramedic, will give a CME on April 19 at 8:30 on EMS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: CHILD ABUSE CASES.

EMS providers have the ability to help the justice system work properly after a tragedy through proper observation and documentation. More importantly, EMS folks have an under-utilized role in prevention of serious injury and death to children. This is especially true in safe sleep for infants and the identification of suicide at risk children. Come hear Brett, who works with the state child fatality review panel and chairs a working group on abusive head trauma in children, tell us how we can improve the safety of children, our most vulnerable patients. The CME will be held at 400 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, just down the street from the Health Center. Plenty of free parking. Coffee and bagels will be provided. Hope to see you there.

Joe Chipman December 28, 1972-March 22, 2017



Joseph Alan Chipman, aka Bennie Banetez, passed away in Daytona Beach, Florida on March 22, 2017. Joe was a long standing EMT (26 years) in the Hartford area, working for American Medical Response, Manchester Ambulance, and the Vernon Fire Department.

UConn Health EMS Website

For news, educational information, CME schedule and past copies of our newsletter *Partners*, check out our website at:

health.uconn.edu/ems

UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION



**EMS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:
CHILD ABUSE CASES**



Brett Salafia
Senior Assistant State's Attorney

Medical Resident Lecture
TBA

Case Reviews
Richard Kamin, M.D.

STEMI and Stroke Review
Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N.

April 19, 2017

8:30-11:30 A.M.
400 Farmington Avenue, Farmington CT
ALL EMS RESPONDERS WELCOME

Special CMEs Coming to UConn in 2017

In addition to our monthly CMEs, look for these three major educational conferences to be held at UConn JDH in 2017.

**3rd Annual Emergency Stroke Care Conference
(8 Hours)
May 18, 2017**

**STEMI and Acute MI Care
(4 Hours)
(AHA Mission:Lifeline/Connecticut College of Cardiology)
June 7, 2017**

**The Opiate Overdose Epidemic: The EMS Response
(4 Hours)
(CT Office of Emergency Medical Services)
September 20, 2017**

Stay tuned for details and registration information.

CONTACT US:

Any questions or suggestions about EMS? Looking for patient follow-up?



Contact EMS Coordinator Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu or call (860) 679-3485.