



## Emergency Medical Services

# Partners

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[uconnems.uhc.edu](http://uconnems.uhc.edu)

### JDH Named Top Geriatric Hospital

EMS responders bringing elderly patients to John Dempsey Hospital—whether for treatment of a hip fracture or to get a pacemaker for their failing hearts—can be assured that their patients will receive exceptional care.



John Dempsey Hospital has been named the top geriatrics hospital in the Hartford Metro area according to the U.S. News & World Report's 2011-12 Best Hospital Rankings. Dempsey is the only Hartford metro-area hospital identified as "high-performing" in geriatrics. "This recognition speaks volumes about John Dempsey Hospital," says Dr. George Kuchel, director of JDH's Center on Aging. "To best assess the quality of a hospital, you need to first evaluate its metrics when it comes to caring for its most vulnerable patients."



The U.S. News & World Report's are the country's most extensive hospital rankings. They take into account hard numbers, including death rates, patient safety, procedure volume, and other objective data, as well as responses to a national survey, in which physicians were asked to name hospitals they consider best in their specialty for the toughest cases.  
*-Christopher DeFrancesco*

### EMS Geriatric Care

Our population, particularly in Connecticut, is aging. 13% of Connecticut's population is over 65. By 2030, 20% of our population will be over 65. Today the elderly account for up to 39% of EMS calls nationwide. By the year 2030, it is estimated that the elderly will account for 70% of all ambulance transports. Our older citizens pose unique challenges to EMS responders. Recently an elderly patient was brought into the JDH ED with the complaint of general weakness in her legs. She turned out to have renal failure and was experiencing episodes of ventricular tachycardia. Often calls involving the elderly are not as simple as they look.

Here are some tips to guide your care:

1. Probe for the patient's true complaint. Patients will often give trivial or nonspecific complaints and will not always volunteer information. They often don't want to be a bother. Don't let family members distract you from what the patient may tell you if you ask them.
2. Show respect. Make eye contact. Speak slowly. Give the patient time to answer. Be patient.
3. Don't assume confusion is normal because a patient is elderly. Attempt to find the patient's baseline.
4. Look for underlying medical conditions behind geriatric trauma.
5. Collect all medications. 30% of geriatric hospitalizations are drug-induced.
6. Don't forget to consider the possibility of elder abuse, which can include neglect in addition to physical abuse.
7. If you see physical hazards in a home, speak up. Help the elderly keep their homes safe.
8. Don't forget to treat pain. When an elderly person, who often has a decreased pain sensation, says they are in pain, they likely are in significant pain.

## EMS Tourniquet!

Congratulations to **Bradley International Airport Fire Department** Paramedic Dan Starvish for his quick thinking in utilizing a tourniquet on a patient who suffered a severe traumatic leg injury — a near amputation with unremitting bleeding.



Tourniquets are again considered to be effective EMS treatment when faced with uncontrolled bleeding in extremities. Use either an approved commercial tourniquet or a simple blood pressure cuff.



Tighten the tourniquet or pump the cuff up to until all hemorrhage ceases. Transport without delay and reassess frequently. Often in lower extremity injuries, a large thigh cuff will be more effective than a cuff below the knee. Starvish followed procedure in writing the time of tourniquet application on the device. In addition to the tourniquet, Starvish provided a sterile dressing for the open wound, a pillow splint and narcotic analgesia for pain management. EMTs Zachary Daniel and Joseph Graveline of **East Windsor Ambulance** assisted Starvish in managing the patient. The Bradley Airport Fire Department and East Windsor Ambulance do an outstanding job providing care in their surrounding communities. John Dempsey Hospital is proud, as their sponsor hospital, to provide them medical oversight and continuing education. Keep up the great work!

## ATTENTION EMS SERVICES

John Dempsey Hospital EMS Medical Director Richard Kamin and EMS Coordinator Peter Canning, as well as other hospital staff, are available to come to your training center to present on EMS Topics and/ or conduct Case Review Sessions. Care for many of our patients begins with EMS and we are committed to partnering with you to see they get the best care possible. Contact EMS Coordinator Peter Canning at [canning@uchc.edu](mailto:canning@uchc.edu) or call (860) 679-3485 for more information on setting up a session.

## UCONN Health Center EMS Web Site

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

[uconnems.uchc.edu](http://uconnems.uchc.edu)

## HAVE AN INTERESTING ECG STRIP?



Dr. Christopher Pickett of the Calhoun Cardiology Center will be reviewing ECG interpretation at our next CME. Stumped by a difficult ECG strip? Or if you have a noteworthy strip worth sharing, please submit the strip by August 15, 2011 to Peter Canning for inclusion in Dr. Pickett's presentation.

## UCONN EMS CME – September 2011

All Area Providers Welcome

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### EMS ECG Interpretation

Christopher Pickett M.D.

Co-Director of Electrophysiology

Calhoun Cardiology Center

University of Connecticut Health Center

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### Administrative Resident Lecture

AR to be announced

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### Case Reviews

Richard Kamin, M.D.

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### Journal Article:

To Be Announced

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**Thursday, September, 1 2011**

9:00 AM

Keller Auditorium (located in Main Hospital Building)

Enter main door, take escalator down one floor.

### Parking Notice:

Daytime parking in main lot at top of hill is now limited to visitors and patients. If you are unable to find parking, please park in lower lots and take shuttle bus. Thanks.

## UPCOMING CME SCHEDULE

There will be no CME for the month of August.

## CONTACT US:

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



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