



Emergency Medical Services
Partners

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health.uconn.edu/ems

UConn /OEMS Host Opioid Conference



More than 100 EMS officials gathered at **UConn Health** on September 20th for a statewide forum on the opioid crisis. The event, co-hosted by UConn Health and the **Connecticut Office of Emergency Medical Services**, discussed the origins of the epidemic, the dangerous of fentanyl, the science of addiction, proper EMS treatment, provider safety, harm reduction and prevention initiatives, and the importance of data collection.

Forum speakers included: Charles McKay, M.D., acting director, Connecticut Poison Control Center; Marisa Edelberg, Medicolegal Death Investigator, State of CT Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Raffaella “Ralf” Coler R.N., MEd., paramedic & director, Office of Emergency Medical Services; C. Mark Jenkins, Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition, Sarah Howroyd, Manchester H.O.P.E. Initiative, Richard Kamin, M.D. UConn Health EMS Medical Director and OEMS Medical Director, Surita Rao, associate professor of psychiatry at UConn Health, Steven Wolf, M.D., chairman, Emergency Medicine, Saint Francis Medical Center; Peter Canning, EMS Coordinator, UConn Health, and Kelsey Opozda and Robert Lawlor of New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC).

EMS Stroke Symposium—November 1

The Stroke Center at UConn Health John Dempsey Hospital will be hosting an **EMS Stroke Symposium** the evening of November 1, 2017 from 6:00-9:00 PM in Grossman Auditorium at 400 Farmington Avenue, Farmington.



The Keynote Address will be given by UConn Health’s new neurosurgeon, Dr. Ketan Bulsara, who will talk about endovascular stroke care and the latest imaging advances that may broaden the stroke window to 24 hours. Other topics will include Intracerebral Hemorrhage, tPA: the Evidence, Wakeup Strokes, and EMS Best Practices.



Other speakers include Dr. Sanjay Mittal, Dr. Gracia Mui, and Dr. Richard Kamin.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 with the program starting at 6:30. Seating is limited so please R.S.V.P. to Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu. Three hours CME will be offered.

UConn 24-7 Neurological Coverage

UConn Health John Dempsey Hospital offers 24-7 Neurological coverage. We provide endovascular stroke care, as well as treatment for skull based injuries, complex tumors, brain hemorrhages, hemorrhagic stroke and aneurysms. Elderly falls on blood thinners can be safely brought to our Emergency Department.

Free Online CME– Sponsored by Connecticut Office of Emergency Medical Services and UConn John Dempsey Hospital

EMS Responders can sign onto to Train Connecticut and take a free one hour CME on the opioid epidemic and the role EMS can play in helping fight the battle.

Here is the link:

<https://www.train.org/connecticut/course/1072448/>

Title: The Opioid Overdose Epidemic: The EMS Role

Course Number: 1072448

Purpose: To prepare Emergency Medical Responders to intervene in opioid emergencies in a manner that will reduce patient death through effective medical interventions and use of community resources

Brief Description: The Program discusses the background of the opioid epidemic, Connecticut death statistics, Connecticut CORE initiative, the science of addiction, the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, opioid overdose treatment, provider safety, prevention initiatives, data collection, harm reduction, and stamp bag recognition.

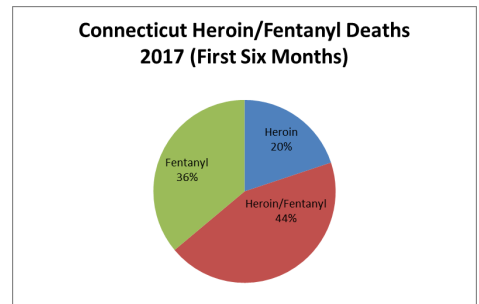
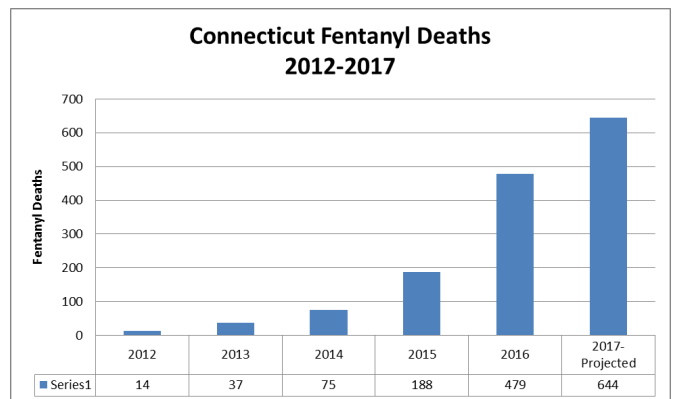
CME: One (1) Hour of CME is offered, approved by **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**. Certificate can be downloaded after completion of course.



Connecticut Opioid Deaths Continue to Rise, Fueled by Fentanyl

539 people in Connecticut died of accidental drug intoxication deaths during the first six months of 2017, which projects to 1078 for the year, an increase of 17.5% over 2016, according to the state Medical Examiner’s Office. Fentanyl continued to fuel the rise in deaths. The synthetic opioid, which is 50 times stronger than heroin, was present in 322 deaths during the first half of 2017, which projects to 644 for the year, an increase of 34% from 2016. Because it is stronger, less is needed to produce the desired effect. Each bag contains a larger portion of cut such as baby formula, sugar and caffeine. In Connecticut users buying heroin may be getting heroin, fentanyl mixed with heroin or fentanyl without any heroin. The danger of fentanyl is that it can clump, producing a hot spot, where one bag contains much more drug than the general mix, producing an overdose even for users with high tolerance. 2017 marks the first time in Connecticut that fentanyl has been responsible for more deaths than heroin. Full data can be viewed here, including all opioid and other drug deaths.

[Connecticut Accidental Drug Intoxication Deaths Office of the Chief Medical Examiner](#)



Stroke Honor Role

West Hartford Fire Department paramedic Will Berghoff and crew from Station 5, along with **American Medical Response** paramedic Angel Rodriguez and his partner Chris Sneed responded for an 87 year old man with acute left-sided weakness and slurred speech. While Berghoff initiated care, Rodriguez called in a **Stroke Alert** to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**. The hospital Neurology team met the patient at the door and took him directly to the CT scan. The patient's CT scan was clear of hemorrhage so he was rapidly given the clot-busting drug tPA. After a two day stay he was discharged to short-term rehab to work on improving his strength. **32 Minutes Door-to-tPA**

Burlington EMS paramedic Shawn McCormick and his partner Jacob Poppel responded for a 91 year old patient with left sided weakness and visual disturbance, as well as arm drift, slurred speech and facial droop. McCormick called in a **Stroke Alert** to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**. The hospital Neurology team met the patient at the door and took him directly to the CT scan. The patient's CT scan was clear and after a lengthy discussion with the patient's family discussing the pros and cons, he was given tPA, which cleared up the clot in his brain. While the patient's weakness and facial droop resolved, his visual disturbance remained. An MRI revealed a right-sided ischemic stroke. After two days in the hospital, he was discharged to short-term rehab. **79 Minutes Door-to-tPA.**



STEMI Kudos

American Medical Response paramedic Matthew Kozloski and his partner Alina Ryng responded in Farmington for a man who developed sudden 10 of 10 chest pain. Kozloski did an immediate 12-lead ECG, which revealed an inferior ST elevation myocardial infarction. He called in a **STEMI Alert** with medical control from the scene to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**. **85 Minute Door- to-Balloon. 117 First Medical Contact-to-Balloon Time**

Bristol EMS paramedic Elizabeth Hayes and her partner Matthew Winter responded for a man with chest pain and arm heaviness. Hayes did a rapid 12-lead ECG and recognized the patient was having an heart attack. She transmitted the ECG and called in a STEMI Alert to UConn John Dempsey Hospital where Dr. Danielle Mailloux activated the cath lab prior to the patient's arrival. **48 Minute Door- to-Balloon. 78 First Medical Contact-to-Balloon Time**



UConn JDH to Authorize Ketamine

In October **UConn John Dempsey Hospital** will be switching controlled substances kits for the paramedic services it sponsors. The new kits will include:

- 6 - Fentanyl 100 mcg vials
- 4 - Midazolam 5 mg/ml, 2 ml vials
- 2 - Ketamine 100mg/ml, 5 ml vials

Ativan and Morphine are being removed from the kits.

Educational materials will be sent out on Ketamine. Medics should begin reviewing statewide guidelines governing the use of Ketamine.

Ketamine

Indications:

Sedative used in suspected Excited Delirium patients (3-4 mg/kg IM; or 1-2 mg/kg IV)

Pain Management (0.3 mg/kg IV/IO/IM)

Onset of action:

-IV: Within about 30 seconds

-IM: 3 to ~15 minutes

Duration:

-Full dissociative effect lasts about 20 minutes

-Patient then very gradually transitions back to baseline



UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION



Case Reviews:
Severe Bradycardia
Cannabinoid Hyperemesis
Cryptococcal Meningitis
Fall on Blood Thinners
Anaphylaxis
Choking/Aspiration
Richard Kamin, M.D.



Pediatric Medical Emergencies

TBA

Drug Review:

Ketamine
Richard Kamin, M.D.

Research Review

IV Tylenol for Acute Pain
Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N.

STEMI/Stroke Review

Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N.

(3 Hours CME)

Bagels and Coffee will be served
For Questions, email Peter Canning at

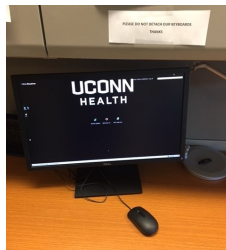
canning@uchc.edu

October 18, 2017
8:30-11:30 A.M.

400 Farmington Avenue, Farmington CT
ALL EMS RESPONDERS WELCOME

REWARD (Our Thanks)

For the return of the missing keyboards from the EMS room computers We have lost six keyboards in the last year. Our two computers for EMS use currently have no keyboards to attach to them. Please return the keyboards, and should any be returned, please do not detach them from our computers. Thanks.



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

EMS Stroke Symposium

November 1, 2017
6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

UConn Health John Dempsey Hospital Stroke Center

Topics Targeted to EMS to Include:

Endovascular Treatment
tPA: The Evidence
Wake up Strokes
Intracerebral Hemorrhage
Stroke Severity Scales
EMS Best Practices
3 Hours CME
400 Farmington Avenue
Dinner Provided (6:00-6:30)

R.S.V.P. to Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu



UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION EMS Monthly CME (3 Hours)

October 18, 2017
November 15, 2017
December 20, 2017
8:30-11:30 A.M.

Cell and Genome Building
400 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT

ALL EMS RESPONDERS WELCOME

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.