Opioid Deaths in Connecticut on Rise
The latest data from the Connecticut Medical Examiner’s Office shows the annual overdose death toll in Connecticut is projected to reach new highs in 2019 after a slight decline in 2018. The rise in deaths is attributable to the increasing prevalence of fentanyl, which was present in 78% of all opioid deaths.

Connecticut SWORD statistics showed August set a record for reported overdoses to CT Poison Control for the new statewide EMS reporting program, including spikes in Hartford and New Haven counties. EMS reporting is critical to our state’s surveillance. Automatic spike alerts are sent when reporting reaches set numbers in each county within any 24 hour period. Please report all opioid overdoses you respond to (as required by CT law) as soon as possible after the event.

Stroke/STEMI Case: Need for 12-Lead ECG
EMS responded for a patient with right-sided weakness, facial droop and dysphagia. They also found the patient to be hypotensive and bradycardic. They called in a STROKE ALERT to UConn John Dempsey Hospital where a 12-lead ECG revealed the patient was also having an acute ST elevation myocardial infarction.

After a CT Scan, the patient was brought up to the cath lab where the team found a 100% occlusion of the patient’s right coronary artery (RCA), which they cleared and stented restoring perfusion. It is suspected that a new onset of atrial fibrillation caused the release of emboli that traveled to the brain and the heart causing the dual critical events. Always remember to do a 12-lead ECG in patients suffering stroke.

New 2019 Statewide Protocol Updates
The latest version of the Connecticut statewide EMS treatment protocols became effective July 1, 2019 for UConn John Dempsey sponsored EMS services. Attend our protocol review on September 18, 2019 at 400 Farmington Avenue, Farmington as part of our monthly EMS CME (8:30-11:30 A.M.).
### STEMI Honor Role

**Granby EMS** paramedic Ashley Kelly and partner Meredith Shepard. 60 Minute Door-to-Balloon. 112 First Medical Contact-to-Balloon (Delay due to trauma CT scan).

**Bristol EMS** paramedics Tyler Barth, Rachel Guillemette and EMT Scott Lamarre. 48 Minute Door-to-Balloon. 79 Minute First Medical Contact-to-Balloon.

**Campion Ambulance** paramedic Damon Osterman and EMTs Scott Stocking, Dave Stankewicz and Mary Barden from *New Hartford Ambulance*. 28 Minute Door-to-Balloon. 77 Minute First Medical Contact-to-Balloon.

**American Medical Response** paramedic and EMT Cassandra Smith. 27 Minute Door-to-Balloon. 71 Minute First Medical Contact-to-Balloon.

**Bristol** paramedics Alan Green and Kevin Watson and EMT Patti Lizotte. 50 Minute Door-to-Balloon. 84 Minute First-Medical Contact-to-Balloon.

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Congratulations to Connecticut for establishing a STEMI System that won the American Heart Association's **Mission: Lifeline Trailblazer Award** for coordinated heart attack care at the hospital, EMS, and system levels.

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### UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION

**2019 V2 State EMS Protocol Update**
Richard Kamin, M.D.

**Sepsis**
Derrick Bremang, M.D.

**Case Reviews**
Richard Kamin, M.D.

**Stroke/STEMI Review**
Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N.

**CT SWORD/Opioid Epidemic Update**
Peter Canning
400 Farmington Ave, Farmington

**2019 Regional Trailblazer Award**

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes
Connecticut Mission: Lifeline Alliance

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### UConn Health JDH EMS Website

For news, educational information, CME schedule and past copies of our newsletter *Partners*, check out our website at: [health.uconn.edu/ems](http://health.uconn.edu/ems)

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### 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.