



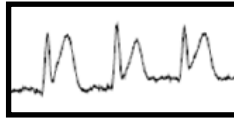
**Emergency Medical Services**  
*Partners*

February 2021, Issue 123

health.uconn.edu/ems

**Avon STEMI Cardiac Arrest Save  
American Medical Response**

paramedic Michael Palmieri and his partner John Williams responded for a patient with crushing chest pain and shortness of breath. A 12-lead ECG showed anterior/septal ST elevation. Palmieri called in a **STEMI Alert to UConn John Dempsey Hospital**. Moments later still in the ambulance, the patient went into cardiac arrest and received one defibrillation which restored pulses. In the cardiac cath lab, the cardiology team found the patient had an occluded Left Anterior Descending Artery (LAD), which they successfully cleared and stented, restoring perfusion. The patient also received an intra-aortic balloon pump to support his circulation. He did well post procedure and was discharged home four days later. Great job all!



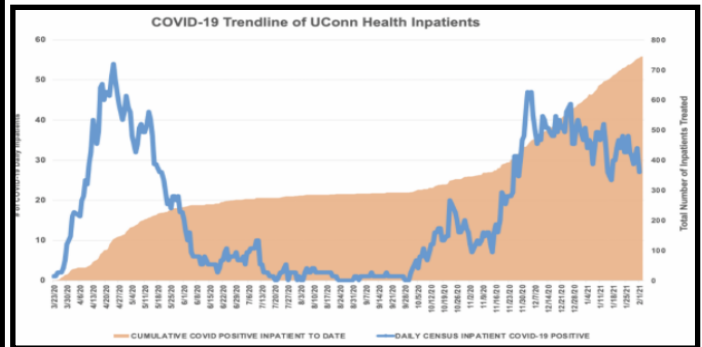
**Preapply Defib Pads to STEMI Patients**

Patients suffering from STEMI are at high risk of going into ventricular fibrillation. We apply pads to all of our ED STEMI knowing the risk of cardiac arrest. There are many cases where the pads applied early saved critical time when the patient arrested. Please pre-apply pads so that if the patient arrests you can defibrillate quickly. For a patient that arrests while you are pulling into the ED, it is better to defibrillate in the ambulance than wait until you get the patient into the ED. Recently, we have had several EMS STEMI patients go into arrest while en route to JDH. Those patients that had pads already applied were quickly shocked back into perfusing rhythms. It is vitally important than any patient who goes into v-fib receive immediate defibrillation.

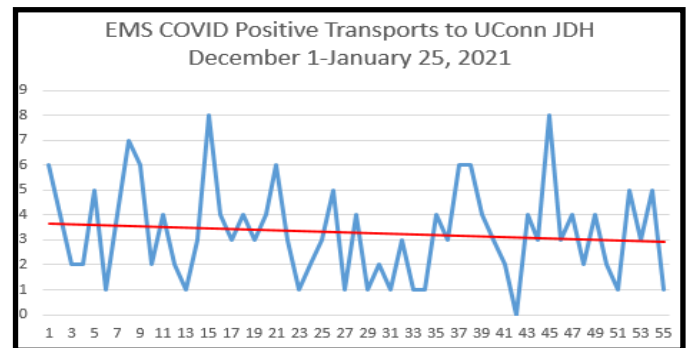


**COVID-19-Keep Protecting Yourself**

Connecticut's battle against COVID continues. While the number of hospitalizations is slowly declining, the threat remains high, particularly with the concern of new variants arriving in the state. The chart below shows UConn Health COVID-19 hospitalizations from last March to February 1, 2021.



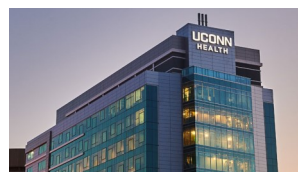
This chart shows EMS transports to UConn JDH ED since December 1, 2020 (includes those admitted and those discharged from the ED).



Keep wearing your PPE! Get vaccinated! Be safe!



**Mission:  
Lifeline®**



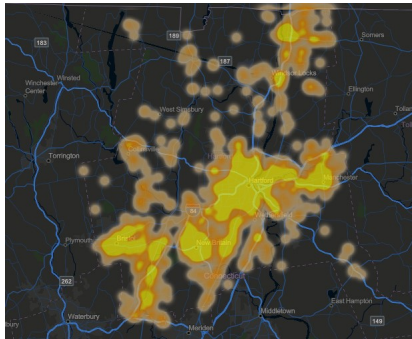
## Quality Assurance Corner

One of the most important things for EMS providers to do is to keep up with guideline changes. The following are several once common practices that we **no longer follow**.

1. Pace cardiac arrests.
2. Administer Solumedrol for anaphylaxis.
3. Transport noncardiac arrest patients on backboards.
4. Withhold pain management from patients with abdominal pain.
5. Routinely stop CPR to intubate.
6. Repeatedly attempt intubation despite failure of initial attempts.
7. Routinely give Nitro to patients with inferior myocardial infarctions.
8. Avoid the rapid use of tourniquets in uncontrolled bleeding.
9. Use Naloxone for coma of unknown etiology, give Naloxone 2 mg IV in a single dose when able to effectively ventilate patient with ambu-bag.
10. Fail to consider sedation in patients fighting against physical restraints.
11. Fail to do a 12-lead ECG on all syncope patients.
12. Transport medical cardiac arrests without taking the time to effectively work them on scene.

## Connecticut SWORD

Since June 1, 2019, EMS providers in Hartford county have reported 2,643 suspected opioid overdoses to the **Connecticut Poison Control Center** as part of the SWORD directive. The data is shared with state and local public health officials to track and respond to the evolving opioid epidemic. Here is a heat map of the county. Those with access to the data, can zoom the maps down to the block level, enabling targeting of outreach and training efforts.



## 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)

## UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION 2021



March 17, 2021  
April 14, 2021  
May 19, 2021  
June 16, 2021  
September 15, 2021  
October 20, 2021  
November 17, 2021  
December 15, 2021



**8:30-11:30 A.M. (Wednesdays)**  
**All CMEs until further notice**  
**will be virtual CMES.**

3 Hours CME  
ALL EMS RESPONDERS WELCOME

Use this link:

<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m916b5a3cf93a7d9c98d2570e49cbb29f>

## Refresh2021- Free ON Demand CAPCE Approved NREMT Refresher for All EMS Levels

Over 12,000 EMS professionals nationwide have already signed up for this online on demand refresher being offered free to EMS by some of the nation's top EMS educators in thanks for EMS service during this difficult year of COVID.

Sign up at:

<https://www.prodigyems.com/refresh2021>

Highly recommended. Available only until March 31, 2021.

#Refresh2021



Free. Online. On Demand.

@Refresh2021

EMT/Paramedic Refresher

NREMT's NCCP Program  
30 National Hours

## 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.

