# Dane County EMS Newsletter

February, 2023



# **Dane County Overdose Spike Alerts**

Public Health Madison and Dane County uses EMS data to monitor daily volumes of suspected opiate overdoses. An "alert day" is any day with five or more EMS responses for a suspected overdose. The documentation you provide on overdose calls matters!

Learn more about the PHMDC spike alerting system at: https://www.publichealthmdc.com/ communityinitiatives/ reducing-drug-harm/overdose-spike-alerts



# February Viz Quiz

Case: Patient with chest pain, onset 20 minutes prior to EMS arrival. ECG as shown. Patient has a pulse and BP

160/110. Appears short of breath. After starting an IV. What is your best treatment option?

- 1. Give adenosine 6-12 mg IV
- 2. Give magnesium sulfate 2gm IV
- 3. Intubate the patient on scene
- 4. Defibrillate the patient
- 5. Treat the chest pain with aspirin and nitroglycerin



Submit your answers at <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTL297B</u> for the chance to win a prize!

# January Viz Quiz Follow-Up

• Answer: D

Unfortunately, layperson use of AEDs actually seems to be decreasing (9% in 2020 down to 5.8% in 2022).

Early defibrillation is a key part of survival for people suffering from SCA who have a shockable rhythm – for every minute that there is no intervention, the likelihood of obtaining ROSC with a positive neurological outcome decreases by 10%.

What are some ways we can increase access to and utilization of AEDs?

- Assess current locations of AEDs in your communities and compare to where cardiac arrests are occurring
- Community outreach to local businesses, apartment buildings, nursing homes, schools, sports teams/parks and rec programs, etc to increase access
- Support accurate and updated information regarding AED locations in your community for Dane County PSC (the telecommunicator can alert a caller to a nearby AED!)
- Partner with law enforcement to maximize AEDs available to first responders
- Teach CPR classes and educate on what AEDs are and how to use them
- Become a verified first responder with Dane County EMS and Pulse Point

Congratulations to Grace from Belleville for winning the January Viz Quiz prize!

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### **Case Study**

**Case:** You are called to a parking lot near your station for an unresponsive patient. A bystander noticed someone lying on the ground, moaning, minimally responsive. What you observe as you approach the patient is a roughly 55 year-old man who looks vaguely familiar to your colleague from past transports. It is early February and he is wearing a shirt, a tattered jacket, and jeans. He does not appear to have gloves or a hat. The patient opens his eyes to a vigorous stimulation, has slight movement of all 4 extremities but is only able to grunt. As you begin your assessment, there does not appear to be any blood or vomit around the patient.

What do you do first? Do you consider this a trauma or a medical? Which protocol do you follow?

Certainly, the patient has altered mental status, so you choose to follow that pathway until other findings dictate otherwise. First task, check a blood glucose. It is 350. Next, you place a cervical collar and load the patient onto a stretcher using cervical spinal precautions. Once in the back of your ambulance, you start to undress the patient to place him on the monitor and obtain a 12-lead ECG as your partner searches for IV access. As you do this, he is cool to touch in his extremities and has a long 4-5 second capillary refill. BP 89/50, HR 60, SPO2 – poor tracing, no reading. Temp 27.5c (81F).

Hypothermia is divided into 3 categories: Mild (T 90-95), Moderate (T 82-90) and Severe (T<82). This patient's severe hypothermia is life-threatening. All vital signs are depressed, as is the patient's mental status. Step one in the protocol is to remove the patient from the cold environment. Next, be sure to check blood glucose and EKG. Start an IV. Active rewarming measures: Warm IV fluids, warm blankets if you have them. Passive rewarming: Remove any wet or damaged clothing, cover entire body as much as you can. Also note that death rates from hypothermia are 4 times higher in rural areas. Alcoholism is a factor in 10-25% of cases. Death rates are 0.4 per 100,000 people. Stay warm!!

### **Case Vignette of the Month**

You are called to a grocery for a pulseless non-breathing patient. When you arrive on-scene, a bystander is performing appropriate hands-only CPR. The patient is apneic, cyanotic and unresponsive.

#### Do you immediately take over CPR, or do you apply your monitor and charge it up while the bystander continues?

Once you have analyzed the rhythm and determine it is ventricular fibrillation, a shock is delivered and CPR is immediately resumed. What things can your crew do during the next round of CPR to minimize the time spent withholding CPR?

If ROSC is achieved, what is your next task? EKG? Transport? Cooling?

Should you stop CPR to place an airway during the resuscitation?

If you are curious about how each of your services answers these questions and how Dane County performs as a whole, these were addressed at our first annual Cardiac Care Symposium on February 1st. If you were unable to attend, feel free to reach out to your chief or directly to the Medical Advisors and we can share data and even come to your station to give refreshers and updates on high-quality CPR.

#### SSM ED - Ambulance Entrance

Please do not flip the switch located above the ambulance bay doors to leave the facility. You must use the key pad located on the wall to open the doors. This system has been put in place to ensure the safety of all patients within our emergency department.

Any questions – please direct them to Stephanie Lehmann at <u>Stephanie.e.lehmann@ssmhealth.com</u>

#### Cardiac Care Symposium

On February 1st Dane County EMS hosted the Cardiac Care Symposium. This amazing training showed the advancements made in cardiac care at all points of patient contact. Seeing the positive patient outcomes certainly re-energizes our commitment to this important initiative! Thank you to all who presented and to MPD for letting us use their training center. If you missed it, you can watch the full training <u>here</u>!

Thank you for reading! For questions, comments, or feedback you can contact the DCEMS office at <u>dcems@countyofdane.com</u> or by calling 608-335-8228. All other staff contact information can be found at <u>em.countyofdane.com/EMS/contactus.</u>