

Philosophy of Five: Using performance improvement to unify a system



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If you've seen one EMS system.....
you've seen one EMS system

- Unknown

The System : The Players

- The transport agency (ATC EMS)
- Austin FD
- Emergency Service Districts (ESD) x 13
- Corporate First Responders
 - Industrial Safety
 - Municipal Agencies
 - Volunteer

..... and the

Office of the Medical Director

The OMD

- Freestanding office
- Provides medical direction to roughly 2k providers
- Control exists through credential of provider



Pros and Cons

- Pros
 - Clearly defines mission
 - Duty to serve the public
 - Duty to serve all the providers
 - Independent identity

Pros and Cons

- Cons
 - Independent identity
 - You are **accused** of being in bed with everyone
 - You are **actually** in bed with no-one
 - Like sex....may be difficult to achieve consensus



.....A familiar figure?

You will yield to my will!



Without Direction

- Politically motivated worship of false deities
 - Response times
 - Skills targeted care
- Loss of unified clinical focus
- Loss of cohesion as a system

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♿
NO OTHERS



Needed a Plan

- Target for performance improvement
- Focus the system on clinical issues
- Oppose political pressure on response times
- Framework for education

- Create a “Movement”

Back to Basics

- What defines EMS from the public perspective
- What conditions generate the 5-10 % of our EMS patients who are really sick
- What things must we be able to do well



Developed a list...the “Essential 8”

- STEMI
- Stroke
- Trauma
- Asthma
- COPD
- CHF
- Anaphylaxis
- Cardiac Arrest

Something wasn't right



“Not eight.....FIVE!”

“Philosophy of Five”

- Time Sensitive
 - Stroke
 - STEMI
 - Trauma
- Intervention Sensitive
 - Respiratory distress
 - Cardiac arrest

Time Critical Events

- Interventions are minimal
- Most are performed by basic providers
- Requires cooperation to achieve goals
- Establishes value of first responders

Intervention Critical

- Intervention intensive
- Overlapping interventions
- Requires critical thinking
- Validates expertise of advanced providers

PI and Education

- System bundles for each of the conditions
 - Only clinically relevant components
 - Only components controlled by provider
- Measured across provider level
- Synergy with education
 - Links education across provider levels

Measured behavior = Desired behavior = Clinical benefit

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

EVIDENCE-BASED PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS: A MODEL FOR EXPANDED EMS BENCHMARKING

A STATEMENT DEVELOPED BY THE 2007 CONSORTIUM U.S. METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES' EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS (APPENDIX)

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TABLE 1. Key Treatment Elements for Various Clinical Entities Encountered by EMS Systems

Clinical Area	Elements in Model
ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI).	<p>Aspirin (ASA), if not allergic</p> <p>12-Lead electrocardiograph (ECG) with prearrival activation of interventional cardiology team as indicated</p> <p>Direct transport to percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) capable facility for ECG to PCI time < 90 minutes</p>
Pulmonary edema	<p>Nitroglycerin (NTG) in absence of contraindications</p> <p>Noninvasive Positive Pressure Ventilation (NIPPV) preferred as first-line therapy over endotracheal intubation</p>
Asthma	Administration of beta-agonist
Seizure	<p>Blood glucose measurement</p> <p>Benzodiazepine for status epilepticus</p>
Trauma	<p>Limit non-entrapment time to < 10 minutes</p> <p>Direct transport to trauma center for those meeting criteria, particularly those over 65 (with time consistent caveats for air medical transport situations)</p>
Cardiac arrest	Response interval < 5 minutes for basic CPR and automated external defibrillators (AEDs)

TABLE 2. Numbers-Needed-to-Treat (NNT) by Clinical Scenario

Clinical Area	Elements	NNT	Harm Avoided
ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI)	Aspirin 12-lead electrocardiograph (ECG), direct transport to percutaneous cardiac intervention (PCI) interval from ECG to balloon < 90 minutes ^{46,47}	15	Either a stroke, 2nd myocardial infarction, or a death
Seizure	Administration of benzodiazepine for status epilepticus ⁶⁶	4	Persistent seizure activity
Pulmonary edema	Noninvasive positive pressure ventilation (NIPPV) ⁵⁹	6	Need for an endotracheal intubation
Trauma	Patients with an Injury Severity Score (ISS) > 15 to trauma center ⁷²	11	1 death
Trauma	Patients over 65 years of age with ISS > 21 to trauma center ⁶⁹	3	1 death
Cardiac arrest	Defibrillator to the scene < 5 minutes rather than < 8 minutes ¹⁵	8	1 death



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