Community Health EMS
Integrating Emergency Medical Services and Health Care & Public Health
Community Health EMS

- Short history of Community Health EMS
- Describe benefits of CHEMS
- Keys to success of CHEMS
- What now for CHEMS?
“EMS of the future should be community-based and fully integrated with the overall health care system”
Characteristics of EMS today

EMS is typically:

- Patient/scene based
- Respond to acute events
- “You call – We haul”
- Reliant on 9-1-1 public access to detect incidents and target response
- Often, not well integrated with other health care activities
- Expects patient’s health to improve on the way to the hospital
Benefits of CHEMS to EMS

- Advanced education
- Funding opportunities to support EMS sustainability
- Increased satisfaction
- Strong partnerships
- Recruitment and retention
- Viability and sustainability of rural, volunteer EMS systems
Benefits to the Community / the Patient

- Reduced health care costs
- Increased access to health care
- Streamlined access to health care
- Better consumer education
- Improved health
- Utilization of available resources
What is Community Paramedicine Community Health EMS?

Programs that specifically use paramedics, EMTs and other health professionals to provide community health services

Stop responding acutely to what can be prevented
Local **EMS Involvement in Community Health**

**A new SPHERE for EMS**
Supporting Public Health with Emergency Responders

**Seattle/King County Medic One**

Goal of SPHERE is to:

Prevent future 9-1-1 calls by identifying potentially life-threatening conditions whenever a patient is seen by responders.
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Much Ado About Nothing ??

- **Fort Worth TX** – 58% reduction in ER visits, costs and charges
- **Pennsylvania** - EMS health coaches for asthma; reduced ED visits by 87% & readmission LOS by 89%; saved $1,216 per patient in charges
- **CA** – reduced ER use 35% 1st year / 61% 2nd year savings = $10.3 million
- **Seattle** – 88% decrease in hospital admissions $1.5 million savings – 4:1 return on investment
- **Boston** – chronic homeless cost for program patients were $6,056 compared to $28,436
- **Minnesota** – 39% decrease in ED visits; 44% decrease in hospital visits
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Keys to Success for CHEMS

- Integration and collaboration with other health professions
- Expanded roles
- Funding and reimbursement
- Regulation
- Community paramedic education
- Data, performance improvement and evaluation
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Integration w/ other health professions

Opportunities for Success

- Is CHEMS a solution looking for a problem OR a problem looking for a solution?
- Collaboration and partnerships with other health providers to meet community needs
- Complementary roles in a multi-disciplinary team
- EMS workforce challenges (like all other providers)
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Expanded Role

Opportunities for Success

- Physician education and involvement
  - Oversight
  - Liability
- Expanded role and non-traditional settings is not a new concept
- Needs to fill a gap in community health needs
- Skill creep – need to “package” it
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Funding & Reimbursement

Opportunities for Success

- Cost savings – need more evidence
- Rural cost savings – human cost
- Need to make the case to insurance providers that CHEMS is worth the investment and worth reimbursing for services
  - e.g. Minnesota
  - e.g. Pennsylvania
Opportunities for Success

- States need to evaluate their statutes
- CHEMS is increased role – not increased scope
- Need to define scope & services – i.e. “package it”
- EMS already has a role within the patient’s home
- Need to develop new strategies for medical oversight and control
Education

Opportunities for Success

- CHEMS is a new specialty for a new kind of paramedic / EMT
- A doc is a doc is a doc - 🕳
- A CP curriculum has been developed – Version 3
- Academic based education
- Provision of academic education for rural areas
Opportunities for Success

- Evaluation programs for current & future programs
- National EMS Information System (NEMSIS)
- Program evaluation component for current programs is not universal
- Many programs are young – evaluation is not yet conclusive
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What is CHEMS?

Right Resources

Right Time

Right Patient

= Better Patient Outcomes
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What’s next for Community Health EMS?

Opportunities

- National, state, local dialogue & education
- AHRQ – National CP forum – Atlanta
  - Continue with additional meetings & strategic plan

Strategies include:

- Physician involvement and support
- Reimbursement and funding
- Education
- Data and outcomes
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