Thank you

With two small groups of in-person attendees, and a day long attendance of more than sixty signing in virtually, the 1st Annual Hartford HealthCare EMS Symposium was a huge success. The event, held at our Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) on the Hartford Hospital campus, included hands on opportunities to learn from our subject matter experts with LVADs, pre-hospital ultrasound, airway management, and simulation, as well as great case study presentations by our clinicians from across Hartford HealthCare. The event could not have been possible without the generous support and partnership from the Hartford HealthCare Ayer Neuroscience Institute, Heart and Vascular Institute, and Behavioral Health Network, as well as LIFE STAR and our paramedics from the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Emergency Department and Windham Hospital. Additionally we recognize and thank our great external partners including Stryker, Vintech Management Services, General Devices (eBridge), Zoll, Hunter's Ambulance Service, ESO Solutions, and Aetna Ambulance Service for their generosity and support.

We look forward to hosting a much larger audience (hopefully) for our 2 - day HHC EMS Symposium scheduled for October 2021!

Above: EMTs and Paramedics learn from our LIFE STAR flight RT/Paramedic working alongside our Charlotte Hungerford Hospital ED CCT Paramedic on complicated airway management.

Below, Rocky Hill EMT Mark McNally is taught the basics of ultrasound use by our Hartford Hospital ED Residents (who were both the patient and instructor.)
Editor's Note

Virtual CME Release

We can never have enough CME opportunities!
As you can see from our calendar on the back page, our system has filled the coming months with continuing education opportunities that are either sponsored by our HHC hospitals, or we are proudly supporting events that we have been advised of by our sponsored agencies. If your EMS agency is sponsoring an upcoming CME opportunity, please send us a note to our Facebook page (HHC Emergency Medical Services).

Additionally, our EMS Symposium concluded a day of great opportunities to learn from industry leaders in the fields of trauma, stroke, cardiac care, and behavioral health.

As a result of the feedback we received, we will be enhancing these presentations with a case study or periodical, and adding a brief post – test to make these each available for continuing education credits!

Please see the topics to the right. We will be releasing these as soon as we receive state of Connecticut OEMS approval for 1.0 – 1.5 continuing education hours for each lecture.

We will release this catalog of seven topics in the coming weeks, and look to enhance the offerings even more going forward. These CMEs will be open to all CT EMS providers.

Stay tuned for more information and in the interim, stay safe – stay vigilant.
East Region
Crew: American Ambulance Paramedic Michael Dibernardo, precepting Paramedic Ray Swol, and EMT Stephen Monroe

On arrival: Patient presented with a sudden onset of chest pain. The team quickly determined the patient was having an inferior wall MI and activated the cath lab. The patient underwent successful placement of a drug eluting stent to the distal RCA at 62 minutes from first medical contact.

Crew: Mohegan Tribal Paramedic Ronald York, EMT Kevin Gilot, and EMT Keith Stuyniski

On arrival: Patient complained of a sudden onset of general weakness and diaphoresis. The crew determined the patient was having an inferior wall MI and activated the cath lab. The patient had successful placement of a drug eluting stent to the mid RCA at 52 minutes from first medical contact.
Fairfield Region

Crew: AMR Paramedic Mark Knox and EMT Alan McGrenery
- Upon arrival, the patient had suffered a syncopal episode and was found to be “flaccid” on left side with a fixed rightward gaze.
- A stroke alert called in the field, and a CT scan revealed an occlusion of the right middle cerebral artery.
- Perfusion study found a large area of salvageable tissue. The patient was transferred to a comprehensive stroke center for neuro-intervention.
- All EMS quality benchmarks were met.
- Door to CT in 10 minutes and door to read in 19 minutes.

Great Work and Thank You!

To Bridgeport AMR Paramedic Catherine Maher and EMT Matei Manea

The crew was in between calls at St. Vincent’s Medical Center when a patient was dropped off in a private vehicle at the ED entrance with a GSW.

“In a chaotic situation, the EMS team were an outstanding asset and really went above and beyond. I was very impressed,” remarked St. Vincent’s trauma surgeon Dr. Shawna Kettyle.

Crew: AMR Paramedic Carlos Silva and EMT Jessica Ferguson
- Upon arrival, the patient exhibited Levine’s sign c/o sudden onset sub-ternal non-radiating chest pain for approximately 20 minutes.
- PMHx significant for NIDDM and smoking. ST elevations found in the antero-septal leads with inferior reciprocal changes.
- NTG and ASA administered
- PT arrested in ED and defibrillated in to VT with pulses. PT fund to have a 100% occlusion to the LAD. The PT was discharged with positive prognosis!

Learning moment...

What is “Levine’s sign”?
Levine’s sign is a clenched fist held over the chest to describe ischemic chest pain.

It is named for Samuel A. Levine (1891–1966), an influential American cardiologist, who first observed that many patients suffering from chest pain made this same sign to describe their symptoms.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS
- Characterized by “Levine’s sign” (clenched fist holding chest). This is the universal sign of distress in English patients (clenched fist) and Romanian sufferers.
- This pain lasts for more than 30 minutes.
Engagement Surveys

After dropping off your patient at any of our Hartford HealthCare locations, we ask you to take a moment going forward to tell us how we did!

Backus Hospital (incl Plainfield)

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (incl Winsted)

THOCC – Bradley campus

THOCC – New Britain campus

Hartford Hospital

MidState Medical Center

St. Vincent’s Medical Center

Windham Hospital

Just point your camera at the hospital’s QR code and open your web browser!
Medical Director’s Corner

Dr. Charles Johndro
Hartford HealthCare System EMS Medical Director

One Great Team

If you’re reading this article then you are a person that I appreciate very much. In the beginning of this year, there were many unanswered questions. Will this virus come to America? Connecticut? Who will become ill? How will our healthcare system handle the strain? These questions were quickly answered and the impact was staggering! We were then challenged by the symptoms that the virus produced. How we would adapt our care to treat COVID-19 patients? How would we maintain the safety of our co-workers and the public? We became more comfortable with profound hypoxia, “proning” patients, splitting ventilators, limiting aerosol generating procedures and conserving personal protective equipment (PPE). Now, as we prepare for the “next step” we are regrouping, reopening but not returning to normal. We remain vigilant because of the lessons that the past nine months have taught us.

I am honored and grateful to be a part of such an amazing team. You are an integral part of our team.

We rose to the occasion as we have in the past and will continue to do moving forward. We did so because we communicated, respected and protected each other. The communities we serve always relied on us in their worst moments. They deemed us essential, finally realizing our worth as medical providers and clinicians. We know, however, this is long overdue as we have been essential since the inception of EMS.

We as a team must carry these lessons and momentum forward. We must remain nimble in our clinical practice to change when it is indicated. It is through these trying months that we became a stronger team. We are here to support you in clinical practice, provider wellness and beyond. We will show our support through education, mentorship and outreach. Please know the value you bring to our team and patients. I look forward to our continued partnership and seeing you again soon!

Peer to Peer Support for EMS Providers

Long before we confronted our current healthcare situation, we understood the importance to support the mental wellbeing of EMS practitioners. Long workdays add to balancing personal, professional and patient needs, as well as the stress of the environment in which we encounter each day. Hartford HealthCare reminds you of our “Peer to Peer Support” hotline – 860.696.6811 – answered by a dedicated EMS professional will answer and talk through your current situation. If needed, your peer will connect you with a specialist to provide greater support and guidance when it matters most.
The Hospital of Central Connecticut begins steps for Level 3 trauma designation

Effective September 1st, the Hospital of Central Connecticut (THOCC) began the journey to gain a Level III Certification from the American College of Surgeons. This process will put into place policies and procedures internally and externally to meet the ACS’s guidelines for full accreditation. *Please follow the CT Statewide EMS Guidelines pertaining to Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Sec. 6.18.*

Much of our success falls on our ability to work with you, the EMS provider in the treatment and transitioning of care to this patient population.

When a patient meets the criteria to activate a trauma alert into THOCC please follow:

1. Patch in a **TRAUMA ALERT** with clear and concise information describing mechanism of injury and patient condition.
2. Upon your arrival:
   a. EMS will be given a “Time Out”
   b. We will utilize the MIST acronym to relay key patient information.

   **M**: Mechanism of Injury (MOI)  
   **I**: Injuries  
   **S**: Signs / Symptoms  
   **T**: Treatment

THOCC joins our network of trauma centers within Hartford HealthCare, including **Hartford Hospital** (Level 1), **St. Vincent’s Medical Center** (Level 2), and **Backus Hospital** (Level 3).
# Upcoming Calendar of Events

Please keep an eye out for all upcoming CME opportunities throughout the fall and winter!

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*Dates, times and topics are subject to change.*

Please contact your EMS Coordinator for any questions or to add your agency’s upcoming CME event to our calendar.

**Have a question or suggestion?**

Email us at First Name.Last Name@hhchealth.org

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Join our Facebook group for the latest statewide news and recognition!

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