# EMS and FLEX Performance Improvement

#### **EMS and FLEX Working Together to Improve Health in Rural Communities**

Don Wood M.D. Director, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Utah Department of Health

Robert F. Jex, RN, MHA, FACHE Utah Bureau of EMS and Preparedness <u>rfjex@utah.gov</u>



### The Public Health Model

- RHPI
  - Improve financial, quality and operational performance through comprehensive performance improvement activities, assessments and/or consultations
  - Focus on process and financial performance
    - Substance Abuse
    - Behavioral Health
    - IT
- EMS/FLEX Partnership-Utah
  - To reduce morbidity and mortality of time sensitive diagnosis to residents of rural communities in Utah.



#### HEALTH

#### Ways to Go When and how death will arrive can rarely **Total odds of** be predicted, but statistics reveal what dying, any cause holds the greatest chance of ending a life. 1 in 1 Riding a motorcycle, for example, is far (100%) riskier than playing with fireworks, statistically speaking. This chart shows what the lifetime probabilities are of a U.S. resident dying in a relatively common event, such as a pedestrian accident, or a less common but larger scale catastrophe, such as an earthquake. No matter what the cause, one thing is certain: No one gets out of GREATEST LEAST here alive. -Siobhan Roth Fireworks Heart discharge 1 in 340,733 disease 1 in 5 Flood 1 in 144,156 Cancer 1 in 7 Earthquake 1 in 117,127 Stroke 1 in 24 Lightning 1 in 79,746 Legal execution 1 in 62,468 Motor Hornet, vehicle wasp, or accident bee sting 1 in 84 1 in 56,789 Hot weather 1 in 13,729 Suicide Alcohol 1 in 119 poisoning 1 in 10,048 Accidental electrocution 1 in 9,968 Falling 1 in 218 Accidental firearm discharge 1 in 5,134 Firearm Air/space assault 1 in 314 accident 1 in 5,051 Bicycling accident 1 in 4,919 Motorcycle Fire or Pedestrian Drowning accident 1 in 1,008 accident smoke 1 in 1,113 1 in 626 1 in 1,020 SOURCE: NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, 2003 DATA NGM ART



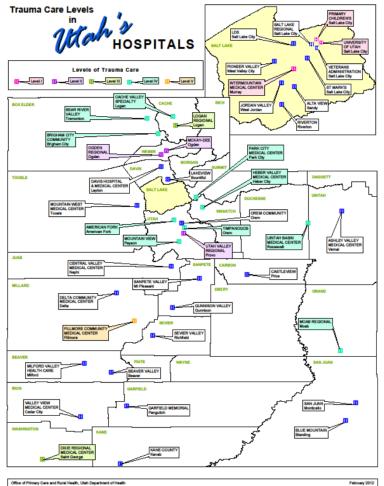
#### Utah EMS/Flex Goals

- Make available RTTDC training to CAH and rural hospitals
- Sponsor Medical Director training and certification for CAH/Rural EMS Medical Directors
- Host a leadership forum for EMS and CAH/rural hospitals focusing on opportunity to improve interventions for time sensitive trauma, stroke and STEMI patients in rural communities.
- Plan and implement a statewide performance improvement process for CAH/rural hospitals and EMS agencies.



#### Time Sensitive Diagnosis

- Trauma
  - 20% of population live in rural areas
  - 66% of fatalities
  - Designation of CAH/Rural Hospitals as Trauma Centers
  - Fluid Resuscitation Training

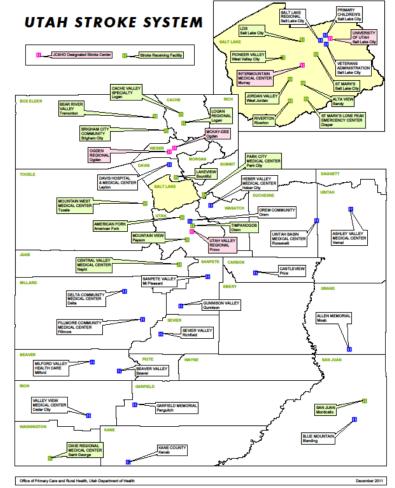




#### Time Sensitive Diagnosis

#### • Stroke

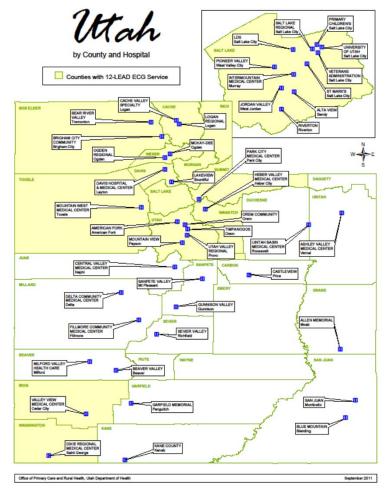
- 70% Stroke is Ischemic
- 3 hour window of opportunity for thrombolytic intervention
- Stroke Tool Kit
- Hub and Spoke System
- Drip and ship to primary stroke center
- EMS and CAH/Rural opportunity for appropriate intervention





### Time Sensitive Diagnosis

- STEMI
  - 90 Minute door to balloon time
  - Thrombolytic therapy if appropriate
  - Develop treatment guidelines for STEMI in CAH/Rural hospitals





# Utah Preventable Mortality Study

- Analysis of all traumatic deaths in Utah for the year 2005
- Looking for preventable contributions to trauma deaths from:
  - EMS
  - ED
  - Hospital Care
- Most common "Opportunities for Improvement"
  - IV fluid resuscitation
  - Airway Management
  - Documentation

Sanddal T, et al. J Trauma 2011;70:970





#### Why Performance Improvement?

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." Albert Einstein

- That which is not measured cannot be improved.
- Assume Good Intent—we all want to do a good job.
- Would I want me and my system taking care of my family?



#### What is Performance Improvement?

According to the American College of Surgeons, performance improvement emphasizes a continuous multidisciplinary effort to :

- **1. Measure system performance**
- 2. Evaluate system performance
- **3. Improve** system performance

PI is directly associated with patient care and outcomes



Internal/External Performance Improvement (PI) Guidelines

#### Structure

#### Process

- 1. Availability of EMS Services
- 2. Timely response
- 3. Equipment Reliability
- 4. Adequate Staffing
- 5. Credentialing
- 6. Community Access to EMS System

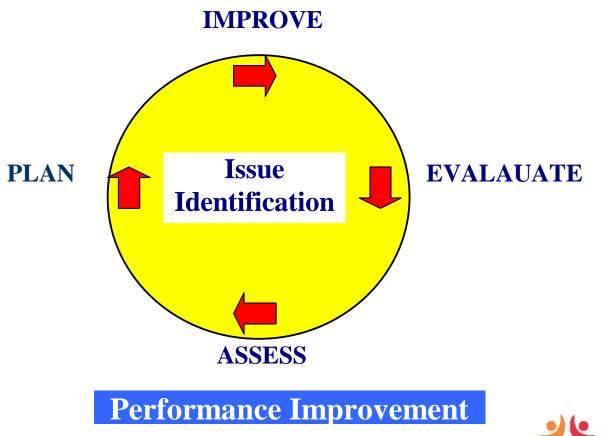
- 1. Patient Care Outcome-run sheets
- 2. Skills performance

#### Outcome

- 1. Improvement of patient condition
- 2. Compliance with protocols
- 3. Evaluation of Procedures
- 4. Q/A process



### Process Management Model





# Why Do State Level PI?

• Objective: To engage providers of pre-hospital EMS care, ED care, and hospital care in a performance improvement and patient safety effort across the continuum of care.



# Next Steps

- Fluid resuscitation was first but others to come
- Regional & state-based feedback will be provided on system measures for use in improvement activities



# Regionalization

 Organize into regions of performance excellence for the purpose of implementing regional PI/PS between hospitals and EMS agencies



# Why Regionalization?

- You know what issues your communities face? We need to hear from you!
- Information will flow both directions
- Face to face interaction with stake holders in a geographical or referral based system



#### UTAH TRAUMA REGIONS





#### So Far...So Good-Trauma

- Utah County Executive Trauma Council
  - ED Physicians, ED Managers, Administrators, Trauma Surgeons, and EMS Representatives in Utah, Summit, Wasatch, and Juab Counties meet quarterly to review trauma PI and issues.
  - Fluid Resuscitation Training





# So Far...So Good STEMI

#### Jordan Valley

#### EMERGENCY PATIENT UPDATE

Patient Name: A., M. Age/Sex: 48 y M Date: 3/21/11

Responding Agency: SJFD #61 (B shift)

 Crew: Chad Jensen, Andrew James, Mike Richards, Weston Walker

Dispatch/at scene/transport times: 2012/2016/2025

P12L obtained/received times: 2022/2023

EMS arrival to hospital: 2038

Code STEMI initiated: 2024

Patient arrived in cath lab: 2114

Reperfusion Time: 2131

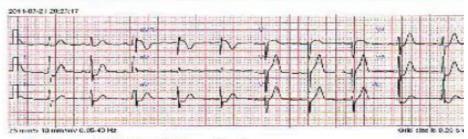
Door to Balloon Time: 53 minutes

911 call to Balloon Time: 79 minutes

Case details and outcome: Mr. A had sudden onset of CP while exercising, with weakness, SOB, diaphoresis and called EMS. Upon arrival, EMS acquired 12 lead EKG, transmitted to JVMC and Code Stemi initiated from patient's home. O2, IV, NTG and morphine given on route to ED. Meds given in ED.

Angiography showed 100% LAD occlusion. Angioplasty and a stent were placed with good results. Patient was d/c to home on 3/23/11 with instructions to f/u with cardiology in 1 week

Great Job SJFD!!!!



Before - 100% LAD occlusion



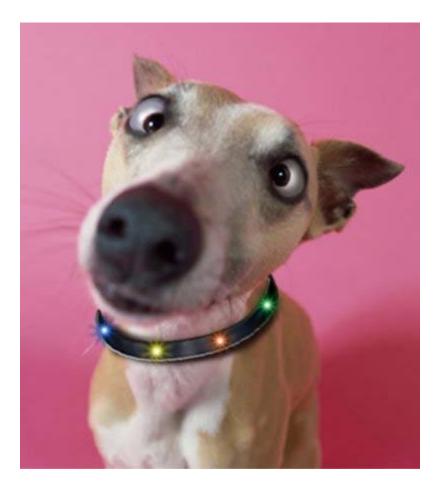


# Next Steps

- Continue Regionalization Initiative
- Provide continued resources to CAH/Rural Hospitals and EMS agencies
- Continue designation of CAH/Rural Trauma Centers, Stroke Receiving Facilities
- Develop STEMI protocols for CAH/Rural Hospitals



### Questions?



#### Don Wood, MD

Utah Office of Primary Care and Rural Health 801-273-6619 DonWood@utah.gov

#### Robert F. Jex, RN, MHA

Utah Bureau of EMS and Preparedness 801-201-6074 rfjex@utah.gov