



February 2017

Region XI EMS Monthly Pearls

- February is American Heart Month, remember that **atypical acute coronary syndrome (ACS)** symptoms of shortness of breath, nausea or indigestion, fatigue, weakness, abdominal pain, and back or neck pain, are more frequently seen in elderly, female, and diabetic patients. Check a 12-lead EKG to evaluate for a cardiac cause of these symptoms.
- **Influenza season** is active and the Chicago Department of Public Health is reporting almost 5% of Emergency Department visits are related to patients with influenza-like-illness. The most active strain is H3N2, which is covered by this year's vaccine. Maintain good infection control by washing your hands and wear a mask to protect yourself!
- With increasing Emergency Department volumes, ambulance diversion or bypass requests increase. If EMS is transporting an ALS patient and there is no appropriate hospital within an additional five minutes of transport time, they may transport to the hospital on diversion and that hospital should override their bypass (**T + 5 rule**).
- There has been a recent surge in heroin overdoses on the city's south and west side, patients may require **multiple doses of naloxone** to reverse the opioid effects.
- **Hospital bypass notification** for all Region XI participating hospitals is transitioning to a web-based system called EMResource and will replace the traditional method of phone-tree updates on March 1st.

Questions? Contact your hospital EMS Coordinator or EMS Medical Director