



June 2017

Region XI EMS Monthly Pearls

- **Drug shortages** are a common theme in EMS and there is a current national shortage of 0.1 mg/ml (1:10,000) **epinephrine**. During the shortage, it may be necessary to dilute the 1 mg/ml (1:1000) epinephrine with normal saline. For cardiac arrest, epinephrine can be given every 5 minutes instead of every 3-5 minutes.
- Region XI has a **new website** (www.chicagoems.org) which provides access to the Protocols and Policies. The individual login portion is not activated at this time.
- **Open or depressed skull fracture** is a Step 2 'Anatomic Criteria' that requires evaluation at a Level 1 Trauma Center. These may be present in patients with significant head trauma from a major impact and deformity on palpation of the head.
- For pediatric patients with suspected **croup or epiglottitis**, apply blow-by oxygen via facemask as tolerated and do not attempt IV/IO access as it may exacerbate the condition.
- The **Cincinnati Stroke Scale** is 1) Facial Droop 2) Arm Drift 3) Abnormal Speech. "Hand grasp" is not part of the CSS.

Questions? Contact your hospital EMS Coordinator or EMS Medical Director