Region XI EMS Monthly Pearls

- **Paramedic Competency Testing** will be held for Chicago Fire Department in February/March and for Private Providers in April. CFD paramedics should sign up for an open date now and Private Provider dates are being scheduled.

- **Opiate pain medications** are now weight based dosing. Morphine is 0.1 mg/kg IV. For patients age ≤ 65 y/o the maximum dose is 10 mg and for age > 65 y/o the maximum dose is 5 mg.

- **VAD patients** should be transferred to a VAD center, and preferentially their VAD center if within 25 minutes.

- **Comprehensive Stroke Centers** are capable to care for severe strokes as they have 24/7 advanced imaging and procedures, trained personnel and a Neurological ICU.

- For Cardiac Arrest CARES questions an arrest is considered ‘witnessed’ if it was seen or heard by anyone including EMS.

**Questions?** Contact your hospital EMS Coordinator or EMS Medical Director