



ADVOCATE ILLINOIS MASONIC MEDICAL CENTER
JOHN H. STROGER JR. HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY
NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER

DATE: November 10, 2023
TO: Region 11 EMS Providers
FROM: **REGION 11 EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS CONSORTIUM**
SUBJECT: **DISPATCH ASSISTED CPR AND PREARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS**

The City of Chicago's municipal dispatch agency, the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC), provides prearrival instructions to 911 callers to stabilize conditions and improve outcomes. Providing callers with *just in time* instructions for chest compressions (telecommunicator CPR or t-CPR) represents an essential component in the chain of survival for out of hospital cardiac arrest.

Our telecommunicators have been instructed to provide t-CPR instructions for all patients determined to be unconscious and not breathing normal. This is a nationally recognized standard to identify potential cardiac arrests over the telephone as callers can easily identify these two criteria. However, callers cannot accurately determine pulselessness and are not asked to "feel for a pulse".

While all victims of cardiac arrest will be unconscious and not breathing normal, there are other conditions such as overdoses, postictal states, or massive strokes that will also meet these criteria. Studies have shown there are minimal risks to providing t-CPR for these conditions. As such, EMS providers will occasionally find bystanders performing compressions on persons who are not in cardiac arrest. In these circumstances, be supportive to the bystanders who are acting in the best interest of the patient and promptly take over care using Region 11 EMS Protocols.

Please contact your Resource Hospital with questions.

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