



September 9, 2005

Dear Rural Metro EMS Providers:

This is to seek your assistance in a project that is a collaboration of the American Heart Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Heart Association and the Centers for Disease control are collaborating to reduce the death rate from heart disease and stroke by a factor of 25% from the year 2000 to year 2010. One of the CDC's initiatives is to develop a registry to accurately measure our progress in the area of out of hospital cardiac arrest in the greater Atlanta area.

In October 2004 CDC activated a 2 year project that will provide outcomes data on Atlanta's ability to manage cardiac arrest in the field. The CDC is working together with the Emory University Department of Emergency Medicine, Section of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine to populate the database. The **CARES** (**C**ardiac **A**rrest **R**egistry to **E**nhance **S**urvival) Project will furnish valuable insights on the community's ability to leverage 911 services, benefit from bystander CPR, utilize AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) to convert lethal heart rhythms and improve infrastructure across all elements of the "Chain of Survival" in order to save lives.

Here is where we need your help. We will be meeting with you individually in the field during the next 2 weeks (September 12th – September 24st) to briefly review the customized Cardiac Arrest Registry Scan Health form. This document will be used to record only the essential cardiac arrest elements that will be able to be scanned daily into the **CARES** database. Once you have received instruction in the field on how to complete the form it will be required to be filled out on all cardiac arrest calls and will be submitted with the regular patient care report. EMS data will be merged with 911 CAD data and Hospital outcomes data to develop a complete record of all cardiac arrest events occurring initially in Fulton County (including Grady EMS) before eventually expanding to all of EMS Region III this fall.

Your assistance and feedback with the CARES data collection process is essential to help provide an accurate description of all deaths which will allow for an estimation of patients that are likely to have died from a sudden cardiac death. Ultimately your efforts in the next few months will allow for expansion of the project throughout the rest of the greater Metro Atlanta area with the eventual hope of establishing a National Cardiac Arrest Registry. The data that is collected in Fulton County will be shared regularly with a community wide panel including providers to help focus efforts on improving each of the links in the "Chain of Survival" in an effort to ultimately improve survival outcomes.

I look forward to meeting with you this month to explain the project further and to answer any questions that you might have regarding the Cardiac Arrest Registry form.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Bryan McNally, MD, MPH