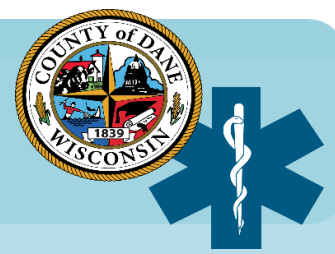


Dane County EMS Newsletter

May, 2022



2022 EMS Week

EMS Week this year is from May 16th - May 21st. The Dane County EMS Office, in partnership with the local hospitals, will be running our first ever "Scavenger Hunt". Providers are encouraged to complete tasks throughout the week for the chance to win a variety of prizes at the end-of-week celebration on May 21st. This celebration will take place at Wisconsin Brewing Company from 3-6pm. This is a family friendly event with pizza, cookies, soda, and even a bounce house provided!

We are excited to finally meet in person to celebrate EMS Week and the hard work EMS providers put in every day! The last two years have forced us to adjust to socially distanced methods of recognition, but that in no way diminished the appreciation we and the community feel towards those who provide pre-hospital care.

The grid to track which tasks you have completed and further instructions on how to submit can be found attached to this newsletter. All are welcome to participate, and we hope you'll join us at Wisconsin Brewing on May 21st for food, fun, and recognition of those who have dedicated their lives to EMS. We thank each and every one of you everyday for the work that you do!

Celebration includes:

Yard Games



Bounce House



Sugar River Pizza



Music



Raffle Prizes



Desserts

May Viz Quiz

You are called to the home of a possible overdose. On arrival, you are greeted by a worried mother who says her daughter locked herself in her room and took "a big handful of pills." When you enter the bedroom, you see a 17 year old young lady lying in her bed. She is sluggish, lethargic, and slurring her words. You check a set of vitals and get a blood glucose level (it is normal). She is breathing but has shallow respirations. Match the drug overdose with the clinical finding:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) | A. Pinpoint pupils, respiratory rate 8 |
| 2. Tramadol (Ultram) | B. Dilated pupils, very wide QRS complex |
| 3. Amitriptyline (Elavil) | C. Sweating, dilated pupils |
| 4. Methylphenidate (Ritalin) | D. Dry skin, midrange pupils slow to react, confusion |

Submit your answers at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/39B5TF2> for the chance to win a prize!

April Viz Quiz Follow-Up

Match Determinant Code with Descriptor

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 - Abdominal Pain/Problems | 24 - Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage |
| 6 - Breathing Problems | 26—Sick Person |
| 9 - Cardiac or Respiratory Arrest/Death | 27 - Stab/Gunshot/Penetrating Trauma |
| 11 - Choking | 31 - Unconscious/Fainting |
| 15 - Electrocutation/Lightning | 61 - Hazmat |
| 19 - Heart Problems/AICD | 77 - Motor Vehicle Collision |
| 21 - Hemorrhage | |
| 23 - Overdose/Poisoning | |

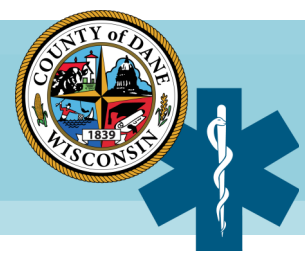
More information on Priority Dispatch can be found here:

<https://prioritydispatch.net>

Congratulations to Jerry from Monona for winning the April Viz Quiz!

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Case Study

Case: You are called to a single-family home for complaint of weakness. When your service arrives, the patient tells you he was fine until about 60 minutes ago. When he stood up, the patient felt suddenly dizzy and weak. He noted difficulty walking. Wife thought “he looked drunk.” The patient denies drinking alcohol and is unaware of any trauma. When you ask the patient, he denies a headache or chest pain. He doesn’t think he has any weakness in his extremities, but he does feel like his “vision is weird.”

As you stand the patient to walk to the ambulance, he stumbles and lists to the right. He seems to walk into things on his right side. Thankfully, your partner helps stabilize the patient. He states it’s difficult because he is seeing “two of everything.” On scene, you check a blood glucose (normal). Vitals are taken and an EKG is transmitted. You recognize atrial fibrillation at a rate of 120. Which stroke scale should you use? Cincinnati? BE-FAST?

Strokes are the 3rd leading cause of mortality in the United States. Of these strokes, 80-85% are ischemic, which implies a lack of blood flow (perfusion) to an area of the brain. Black and Hispanic people are 2-3 times more likely than white people to have a stroke in their lifetime. About 20-25% of ischemic strokes are found in the posterior circulation.

Posterior circulation strokes can be tricky. They are often missed on Cincinnati evaluation. If you suspect a stroke, be sure to communicate your concern to the accepting hospital. Applying the BE-FAST stroke scale to this patient WOULD test positive (balance is abnormal). Using our old Cincinnati score, he would be NEGATIVE. Posterior circulation strokes often present with double vision, ataxia and/or loss of balance and coordination. The vertebral arteries supply perfusion to the brainstem, occipital lobes and cerebellum, therefore acute thromboembolic events (blockages or clots) present differently from anterior circulation (carotid supply) strokes. The BE-FAST stroke assessment incorporates these important stroke signs and is a more accurate stroke assessment tool. Posterior stroke management in the ED follows the same criteria for TPA regardless of whether it is anterior or posterior. May is stroke month! Always be on the lookout for subtle signs of strokes that can cause major damage, and don’t forget to BE-FAST!

Case Vignette of the Month

You are called to a nursing home for a patient who is “bleeding from her arm.” The patient has end-stage kidney disease and received dialysis earlier in the day. The patient noted that “they had trouble getting it to stop bleeding before I left.” They placed a dressing across the fistula, which 3 hours later has now soaked through. The patient thinks she has had the fistula for “many years.” She denies any pain and denies taking any blood thinners. Staff at the nursing home are very worried about the amount of bleeding that happened before you arrived.

On scene, you see a gauze-soaked bandage wrapped around the left forearm. The patient is awake, alert and conversant. Her vitals are: BP 170/100, HR 110. Resp 20. SpO2 95%. Lungs are clear, heart has a regular rhythm. Distal cap refill is 2 sec in the left hand. Sensation is intact.

Things to consider:

Do you remove the dressing or reinforce it?

What do you do if the fistula starts bleeding heavily during transport?

Can you apply direct pressure to a fistula?

Is it appropriate to place a tourniquet proximal to the fistula?

Kudos!

Healthcare personnel provide exceptional patient care every day. Whether it’s using critical thinking, managing incidents, or going above and beyond to provide for a patient, we want to recognize those moments. Share these stories with us at [this link](#) for a member, crew, or agency to be recognized in a future newsletter.

Upcoming Events and Training

5/15-5/21 - EMS Week

5/17, 12-4pm - Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZT78Q7>

5/23, 6-10pm - Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZT78Q7>

5/19, 6:30pm-8:30pm - SSM Health Monthly Training

<http://bit.ly/ssmemstraining>

5/21, 3pm-6pm - EMS Week Celebration Event
Wisconsin Brewing Company

Thank you for reading! For questions, comments, or feedback you can contact the DCEMS office at dcems@countyofdane.com or by calling 608-335-8228. All other staff contact information can be found at em.countyofdane.com/EMS/contactus.