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Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, NRP, FACEP
Medical Director

January 27, 2014

To: All Professionals in the EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City & Tulsa

Re: Cardiac Arrest Survival for Calendar Year 2012

While it is well known I thoroughly detest the impersonal nature of memos, I am particularly pleased to have compelling reason to write this one. My comments are based upon your abilities shown in cardiac arrest resuscitations that occurred in our EMS system in calendar year 2012. Given the complexities of finding patient outcomes in an area as large as we serve, it frankly takes a while to make sure we have all the data right from information supplied by you, our EMS colleagues, and our hospital partners. We now have answers and the results are outstanding. For emphasis, these results are not "pretty good"; they are outstanding.

The international consensus method for EMS systems in reporting survival from sudden out of hospital cardiac arrest is to report survivability from those cardiac arrests due to heart related conditions that are witnessed prior to EMS care, that then receive bystander CPR (often initiated via phone direction by emergency medical dispatchers in our system – great job!), and that are subsequently found in a rhythm that is appropriate to defibrillate by automated or manual defibrillator. While we certainly have saved victims of other forms of cardiac arrest, the results in this memo specifically deal with these specific cardiac arrests.

In calendar year 2012, you and your colleagues achieved a survival rate of 45.2%! This is an all-time high for the EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Among EMS systems approximating our size in terms of patients served, survival like this is virtually unheard. Only the Seattle/King County, Washington area has reported a higher survival. To be sure, this is not a contest among cities; it is a battle we all fight for our patients against sudden cardiac arrest death.

Equally, if not more impressive, is the fact that of the 33 individuals that make up that 45.2% number above, **fully 31 of the 33 (that's 94%!) survived in full or nearly full neurologically intact status.** Amazing.

On behalf of these patients, their families, and the Medical Control Board/Office of the Medical Director, thank you for your dedication to excellence in out of hospital emergency medical care. I am proud of your commitment to life-saving.



You make a difference in these communities and you serve as role model cardiac arrest resuscitators for professionals to follow around the world.

Well done! Let's go save some more lives in 2014.

Respectfully

Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, NREMT-P, FACEP
Medical Director