

## Introduction

- Prehospital medical directives are used by EMS personnel to initiate medical treatment before patients arrive in the emergency department
- Appropriate application of these directives can improve patient outcomes by starting treatments at first patient contact
- It is unknown whether prehospital directives are applied to all eligible patients

## Objectives

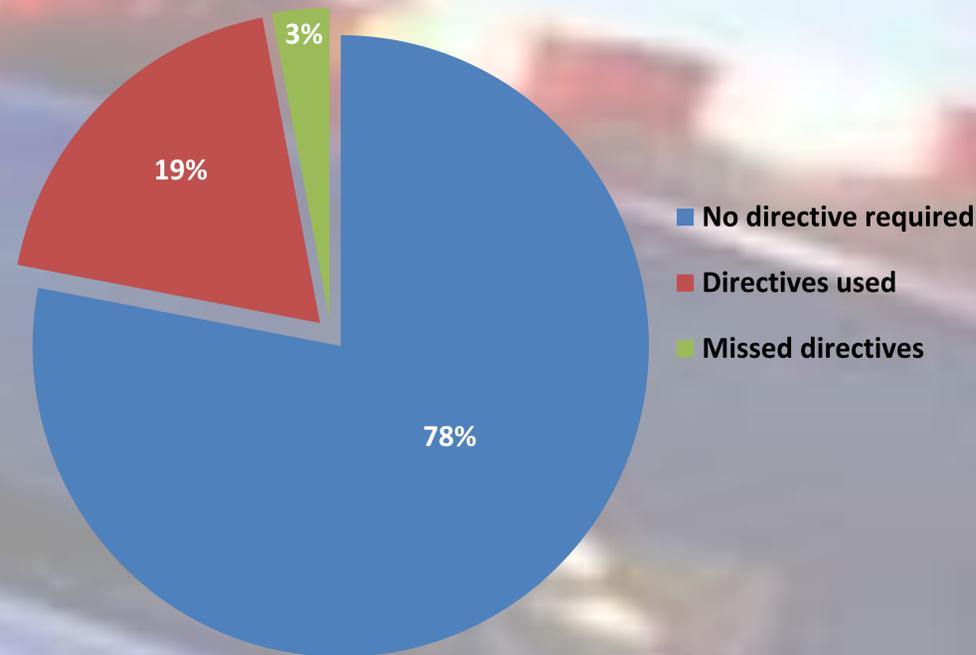
- To determine the proportion of patients transported by EMS who were eligible for medical directive care
- To determine the proportion of eligible patients who received directive based care

## Methods

- A retrospective medical record review was performed for patients  $\geq 18$  years of age brought to the ED via EMS over a 6 month period
- Paramedics' application of a prehospital medical directive was obtained from the Ambulance Call Record (ACR) and classified according to the local 2005 "Primary Care Paramedic Medical Directives"
- Patient's chief complaint and vital signs were collected from the ACR using a standardized data extraction tool
- Investigators used this information to determine whether patients met the criteria for the application of the appropriate prehospital medical directive

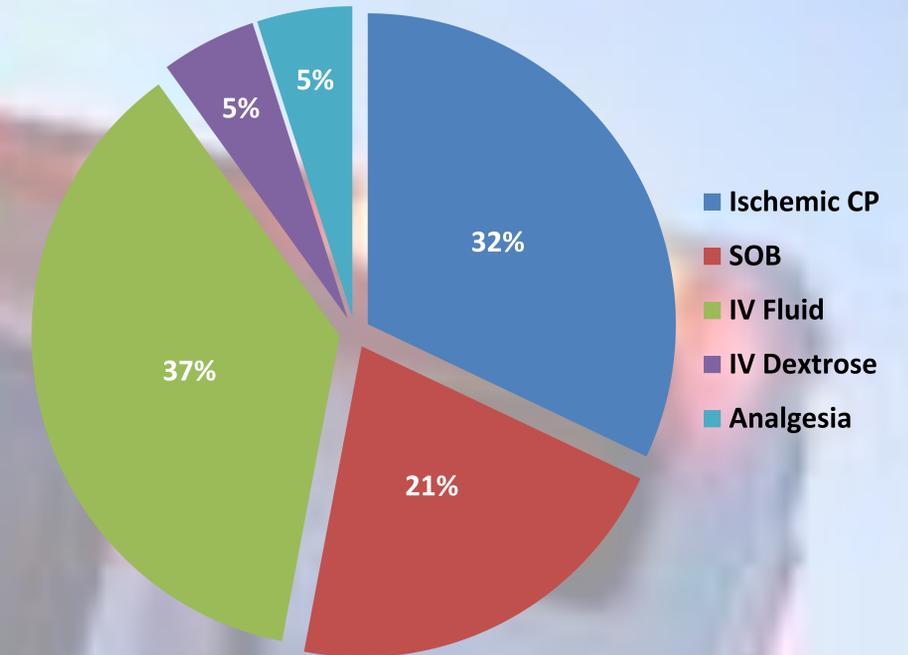
## Results

- 101 charts reviewed



**Figure 1.** Proportion of patients requiring pre-hospital medical directives

- 3 patients, in addition to the 18 identified by paramedics, qualified for application of a prehospital medical directive
- Paramedics correctly identified 18 out of 21 (86%) patients who qualified for the administration of a prehospital directive
- No patients were incorrectly identified as requiring a prehospital medical directive



**Figure 2.** Medical directives utilized

## Limitations

- Did not capture no service calls in the sample

## Conclusions

- Paramedics are identifying patients who meet the criteria for prehospital medical directives with a high level of accuracy
- Paramedics are not applying prehospital medical directives in patients who do not meet the required criteria for those medical directives