



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 24, 2016

To: Bruce County Paramedic Services
Essex Windsor EMS
Grey County Paramedic Services
Huron County Paramedic Services
Lambton County EMS
Medavie EMS Chatham-Kent
Medavie EMS Elgin
Middlesex-London EMS
Oneida Nation Paramedic Services
Oxford County EMS
Perth County Paramedic Services

From: Dr. Michael Lewell, Regional Medical Director
Susan Kriening, Regional Program Manager

Re: Provincial Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) Pre-arrival Instructions

We have been informed that the Ontario Central Ambulance Communications Centres (CACC) will be instructing their ambulance communications officers (ACOs) to provide the following updated evidenced-based pre-arrival instructions to patients and bystanders:

- Aspirin for Chest Pain.** Patients with potential cardiac ischemia will be directed to take 1 adult ASA (325mg) or 2 “baby” ASA (160mg) and chew them. Paramedics should document the ACO directed administration of ASA in the treatment prior to arrival section of the ACR. As per previous direction and education, paramedics can **still administer ASA** (if indicated as per the Medical Directive), even if the patient has taken their own ASA. This administration will ensure the patient has received the correct medication and it will still be within the safe maximum single dose of ASA.
- Epinephrine Auto-injectors for Anaphylaxis.** ACO instructions will be more specific regarding how to administer a prescribed epinephrine auto-injector. Paramedics may still administer epinephrine if the patient’s condition still meets the Medical Directive.
- CPR for Cardiac Arrest.** CPR instructions from the ACO to bystanders will be more assertive to start compressions where cardiac arrest is recognized. As per evidence of benefit, education is also included on how ACOs can recognize possible agonal respirations so that compressions can be started on those individuals. Instructions will also be given in regards to accessing and using Public Access Defibrillators, where available.

We appreciate the care paramedics and ambulance communications officers provide to patients in the community, and their integral part of the health care system. If you have any questions about Base Hospital direction on these initiatives please feel free to contact the SWORBHP office.

Regards,
Mike & Sue