



EMS NEWS



December 2009

Drug of the Month: Dextrose

AKA: D-50/D-25

Class: Caloric agent

Actions: Rapidly increases blood glucose levels

Indications: Hypoglycemia

Contraindications: Inability to establish and ensure the patency of an IV line.

Precautions: Should be used cautiously in the presence of suspected hemorrhagic stroke.

Dose: 25g (50ml)

Route: IV/IO

Other: Patients whose symptoms from hypoglycemia are resolved following the administration of D-50 often will refuse transport to the ER. While this is an acceptable practice, EMS providers need to ensure that patients understand all the risks of refusing transport. Moreover, patients should be educated about the need to eat a meal to maintain adequate blood sugar levels after the sugar from IV D-50 is metabolized. Also, a patient whose diabetes is controlled by oral meds—as opposed to insulin—should be strongly encouraged to be seen in the ER following a hypoglycemic event.

For pediatric patients 3 years of age or older, D-50 is administered at a dose of 1ml/kg. Children less than 3 years of age should be administered D-25 for hypoglycemia. Recall that D-25 is made simply by dispelling half the volume (25ml) from the D-50 pre-filled syringe then drawing up 25ml of normal saline to refill the syringe. D-25 is administered at a dose of 2ml/kg.

Happy Holidays From the Division of EMS

The Division of EMS would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday season. Of course, emergencies don't take a break on the holidays. But, we truly hope that you can find time to enjoy the season with family, friends, and co-workers. You've certainly earned it. Enjoy the holidays and, as always, stay safe.

ED Capabilities Survey Released

The latest version of the Emergency Department capabilities survey has been released. The survey is available in multiple formats at the link below. The survey is intended as a guide to educate EMS providers in the area as to what services each of the local hospitals provides. The survey is presented to give the EMS provider the tools to make appropriate triage/transportation decisions in the best interest of their patients. Transport decisions, like other patient care decisions, should be based on the protocols, policies, and procedures in place at your agency. Consult with your medical director and/or supervisory staff for guidance in using the information provided.

[ED Capabilities Survey](#)

Air Care Pilots Using Night Vision Goggles

Some of you may have heard that Air Care pilots have begun flying with the use of night vision. The question has been raised if this new technology would change ground crews' procedures in establishing a landing zone. The pilots have essentially asked that landing zone procedures remain the same. The statement below was authored by Frank O'Toole, Lead Pilot at Air Care's Butler County base and relayed to us by Dr William Hinckley, Air Care Medical Director.

We ask that folks continue to set up and manage the LZ the same way as before, including exercising the same light discipline. The only item we would like to emphasize is for the LZ Commander to be prepared for the pilot to request small changes to the LZ lighting in real time on a case-by-case basis. For example, they may be asked to turn off the squad rotating light, or turn off the utility lights. Each scene will have to be evaluated individually by the pilot-in-command at that given time. These goggles are so good that we just do not anticipate any major changes.

For additional landing zone or other safety information, consult the air care website below.

www.aircareandmobilecare.com

EMS Division Looking for Local Agencies to Host Con Ed Classes

Over the course of the next several months, The Division of EMS will be conducting various certification courses for continuing education. The majority of these courses are taught by ER Physicians from the UC College of Medicine—many of which are active as Medical Directors of local EMS agencies. The courses we offer include PEPP, AMLS, PHTLS, and AHA ACLS Renewal. These are 16 hour courses conducted over 2 days (with the exception of ACLS—1 day, 8 hours). We are currently looking for a department to host an AMLS class in early 2010. There is a discount on the course fee for members of the host department with a minimum of 7 students from said department. More classes will be scheduled throughout 2010. If you are interested in hosting one of these courses throughout 2010, contact [Kay](#).

Upcoming EMS Educational Opportunities

Cardiac Cath Lab:

The Cardiac Catheterization Lab at University Hospital is once again open to paramedics in the region on Friday each week for observation time. Four hours of CEUs will be awarded. You must be **pre-registered** to attend. For information or to register, contact [Kay](#).

Online Continuing Education:

We are now offering an opportunity for EMS providers to take 10 hours of continuing education on-line. This is done through the UC blackboard system with registration at the UC Emergency Medicine website. **This education is termed “distributive” and is accepted in Ohio, KY, Indiana (and many more states) as well as National Registry.** These are video lectures with PowerPoint by physicians and will be updated regularly. The individual cost of 10 hours is \$60.00. Register at the UC Emergency Medicine website below. For department subscriptions contact [Kay](#). Topics include

medical and trauma such as stroke, 12 leads, toxicology, head/neck/face injuries and more!

Other Con Ed Classes:

The division of EMS has been conducting ACLS Renewal, PEPP, PHTLS, and AMLS on a rotating basis each month running throughout 2009. For a one year package that includes all 4 classes and the online con. ed. – a total of 66 hours of CE – the cost is \$350.00. You will have “loaner” books for most classes to cut down on costs. Completion of the full CE package will meet the core requirements for paramedic recertification in Ohio, Kentucky, and for National Registry. Each month (except for July and August) we will offer one of the above classes. You will have one year to complete your classes. The upcoming class schedule is listed below:

We are considering some potential changes in our continuing education offerings beginning in 2010. We still offer AMLS, PHTLS, PEPP, and ACLS as described above. We are also considering a 48 hour paramedic refresher in early 2010 as well as an EMT-Basic refresher. For information on any of these classes, contact [Kay](#). We will be releasing more information on these course offerings as it becomes available through the first part of 2010.

To register for any of the above classes, click the link below:

<https://www.uc.edu/EmerMed/register/>

General Info:

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Disclaimer:

All the educational information contained in this Newsletter is obtained from reputable publications and internet sites. Information on specific dosages and treatments is largely based on the Southwest Ohio Academy of Medicine Paramedic Protocols. The information is designed to pique your interest and possibly spur further research. It is no way intended to supersede any policies, procedures, or protocols in place at your EMS agency.