



# EMS NEWS



October 2009

## *Drug of the Month: Albuterol*

**AKA:** Proventil

**Class:** Sympathetic Agonist/Sympathomimetic

**Actions:** Acts on beta 2 (lungs) and beta 1 (heart) receptors to provide bronchodilation and an increase in heart rate and contractility.

**Indications:** Respiratory distress related to asthma, COPD, and anaphylaxis/allergic reaction.

**Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to the drug.

**Precautions:** Heart rate should be monitored for tachycardia. Tachycardia, however, should not preclude the use of albuterol for patients with signs and symptoms of bronchospasm.

There is no role for albuterol in the management of CHF/pulmonary edema. Albuterol may be harmful in acutely decompensated CHF, which is to be considered an MI until proven otherwise. The inotropic side effects of albuterol will increase myocardial oxygen demand while doing nothing to fix the underlying pathology, IE, pulmonary edema.

**Dose:** 2.5mg in 3ml, may be repeated for patients with persistent signs and symptoms.

**Route:** Inhaled via nebulizer.

**Other:** While albuterol is useful in many patients suffering from respiratory distress, it is not recommended for all patients. It is most beneficial for patients whose respiratory distress relates to bronchospasm. For moderate to severe asthma/COPD, mixing of albuterol with ipratropium bromide (atrovent) may be considered. Additionally, repeat doses of albuterol may be considered for patients who remain symptomatic following the first dose. It is not recommended, however, for EMS providers to double the dose or administer any amount greater than 2.5mg in 3ml for any one administration of the drug.

## **H1N1 Updates**

As many of you are probably aware, the Governor of Ohio has declared an emergency affecting the public health due to the H1N1 flu. This declaration allows EMT-Ps and EMT-Is in Ohio to administer H1N1 immunizations. EMS providers must have received the appropriate training and be under physician medical direction to be able to administer the vaccine. Contact your EMS agency for more information on this important declaration.

Also, there has been some discussion amongst EMS providers about whether it is appropriate to transport suspected flu patients to the hospital. At this time, no recommendation has been made to not transport any patient to a hospital. Everyone should still be following their local protocols and department procedures regarding transport to the hospital. This will be re-evaluated if the flu outbreak becomes worse. Until such time, it remains appropriate to transport patients to the hospital as normal, even if you suspect H1N1 flu.

## **Fire Prevention Month Kicks Off**

As most of you are aware, October is National Fire Prevention Month. Fire Departments across the region have kicked off aggressive campaigns to educate their citizens about fire safety. Most departments will make more contacts with the general public during this month than will be made the rest of the year. Take this opportunity to educate your residents about your EMS service as well. Get creative in teaching the public about when they need to call for EMS, how to perform basic first aid, where they can sign up for community CPR classes, and much more. The Fire Service has made great strides and saved countless lives with this aggressive annual campaign. With due diligence, the same difference can be made on the EMS side.

## ***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 December. 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 in 2009 or the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2010, contact Josh.

## ***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 14 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, Ohio Trauma Triage, Geriatrics 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:

November: **Free Con-ed.**—Nov. 2, 1pm – 3pm: Sharonville FD  
Topic: To Be Determined

November: ACLS—November 18, 8:30am (8 hour renewal).  
Location: UC College of Medicine

November: PHTLS

Nov 4 and 5, 8:30am: Lebanon Fire Department

Nov 9 and 10, 8:30am: Burlington Fire Department

December: **Free Con-ed.**—Dec. 2, 7pm – 9pm: Burlington FD  
Topic: To Be Determined

December: AMLS—dates and location TBD (16 hour class).

\*More to follow in 2010

Everyone has the option to register for just the individual class or the packaged classes. The above listed classes are available for registration on the website below. No registration is required for the free monthly con-ed. offerings.

To register for any of the above classes, click the link below:  
<https://www.uc.edu/EmerMed/register/>

## **General Info:**

### **Contacts:**

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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.