



EMS Medical Director Report

**Emergency Medical Care Committee
June 26, 2025**



Topics



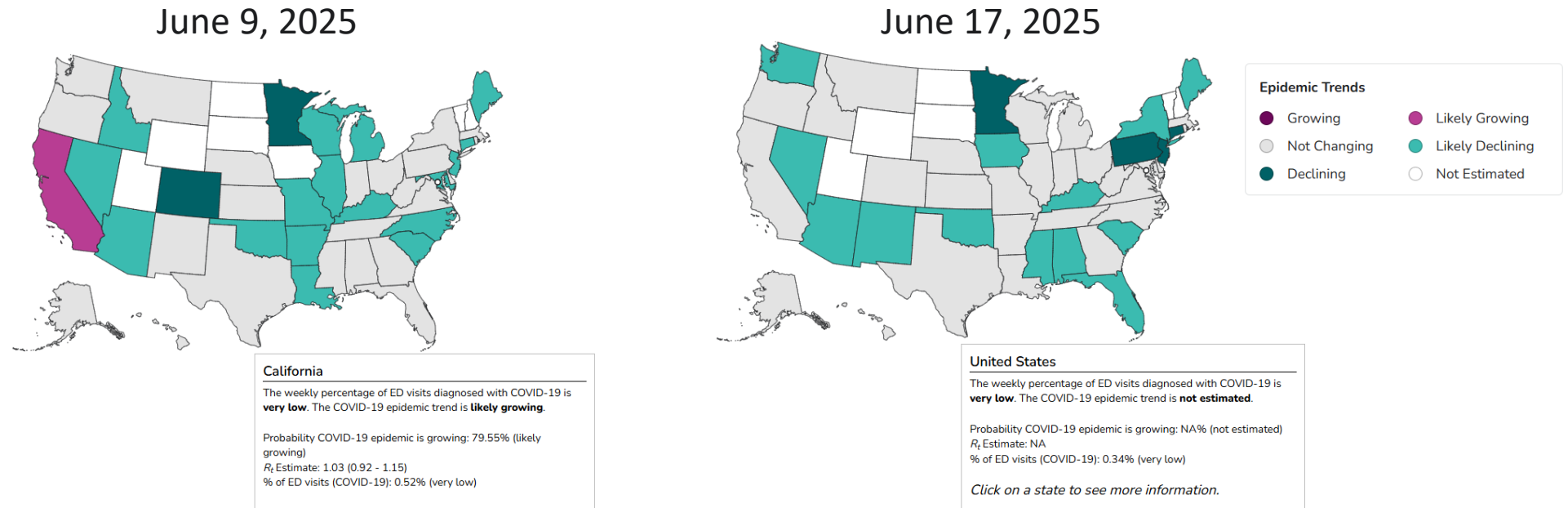
1. Emerging Threats
2. EMS Protocols
3. Cross-Border EMS Pilot
4. State of California Updates
5. Cardiac Resuscitation Initiatives
 - Revive & Survive San Diego
 - ECPR Pilot
6. Quality Improvement (QI) Initiatives
 - Stroke
 - EMS for Children (EMSC)
7. Prehospital Blood



1. Emerging Threats

Summer COVID Wave?

As of June 17, 2025, CDC estimates that COVID-19 infections are growing or likely growing in 0 states, declining or likely declining in 17 states, and not changing in 27 states.



1. Emerging Threats

Summer COVID Wave?

Potential reasons

- Waning immunity
- Increased travel
- Increased indoor activity (air conditioning in cooling centers)
- New highly transmissible mutated subvariants spreading in U.S.
 - Family of JN.1 lineage descendants including KP.2 and JN.1.7 (“FLiRT”)
 - Omicron descendent NB.1.8.1 (“Nimbus”) **“Razor-blade throat”**

What can you do to protect yourself?

- Stay up-to-date with vaccinations
 - [Immunization Schedules | Vaccines & Immunizations](#)
- Use caution in crowded indoor settings
 - e.g., traveling through international airports



1. Emerging Threats

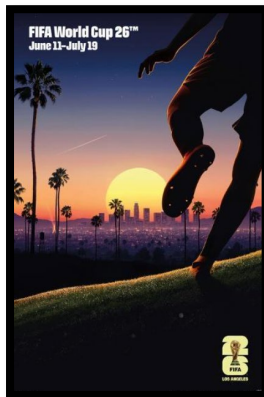
Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers

Tranquil Passport

- FIFA World Cup 26
- Four-day Full Scale Exercise (FSE)

New Federal Biocontainment Unit (PBCU)

- Isolate and safely transfer multiple patients with high-consequence infectious diseases



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

ASPR Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response

PBCU

Portable Biocontainment Unit

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Portable Biocontainment Unit (PBCU) is the first and only domestic capability for long-range transport of multiple high-consequence infectious disease (HCID) patients.

The PBCU is a self-contained unit that can carry up to 10 HCID patients.

The unit can be transported by ground on the back of a standard 53' trailer or by air via C-130 or L-100 aircraft.

The unit weighs 24K lbs and is 30 ft long (358") by 9 ft wide (108").

Key features of the PBCU include:

- Seamless internal construction for easy disinfection.
- 14" walkway inset allows for fore/aft movement in the aircraft.
- Pressure monitor, intercom and CCTV.
- HEPA filtration, and generator or connection power.
- Entry from anti-chamber and patient pass-through.

In June 2025, the PBCU will be tested during the Tranquil Passport Exercise, the largest HCID patient movement exercise in HHS history.

Over 50 federal, state, local, international, and nongovernmental organizations will participate in the exercise.

Exercise play will occur at airfields, hospitals, and emergency operations centers across four U.S. cities (Washington, DC; New York; Raleigh; and Atlanta) and one international city (Toronto, Canada).

The exercise is designed to test the processes and procedures for coordinating HCID patient movement among local, state, regional, federal, international, and nongovernmental partners.

During the exercise, patients will be delivered to five different HHS funded Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs) within the National Special Pathogen System.

This is the fourth full scale exercise collaboration between HHS, the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and local, state, and international partners to test the movement of Americans acting as HCID patients from overseas to the United States for treatment.

PBCU EXTERNAL DESIGN DETAILS

PBCU dimensions will occupy 4 pallet positions on aircraft

Labels in diagram: PBCU, Power Cable, Forward Hydraulic Ladders, Patient Lift, Battery/Power Control Box, Hydraulic Ladders/Control Box, Open Hatch Deck.

Images: C-130 Military version, L-100 Civilian version, PBCU on a truck, PBCU being loaded onto a pallet.

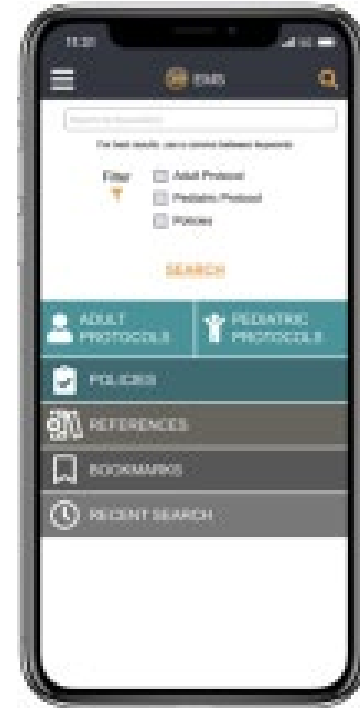
aspr.hhs.gov

ASPRgov

2. EMS Protocols

2025-2026

- Protocols and policies posted on the [EMS website](#)
 - Available on the [EMS Mobile App](#) July 1
- *BSPC Protocol Workgroup*

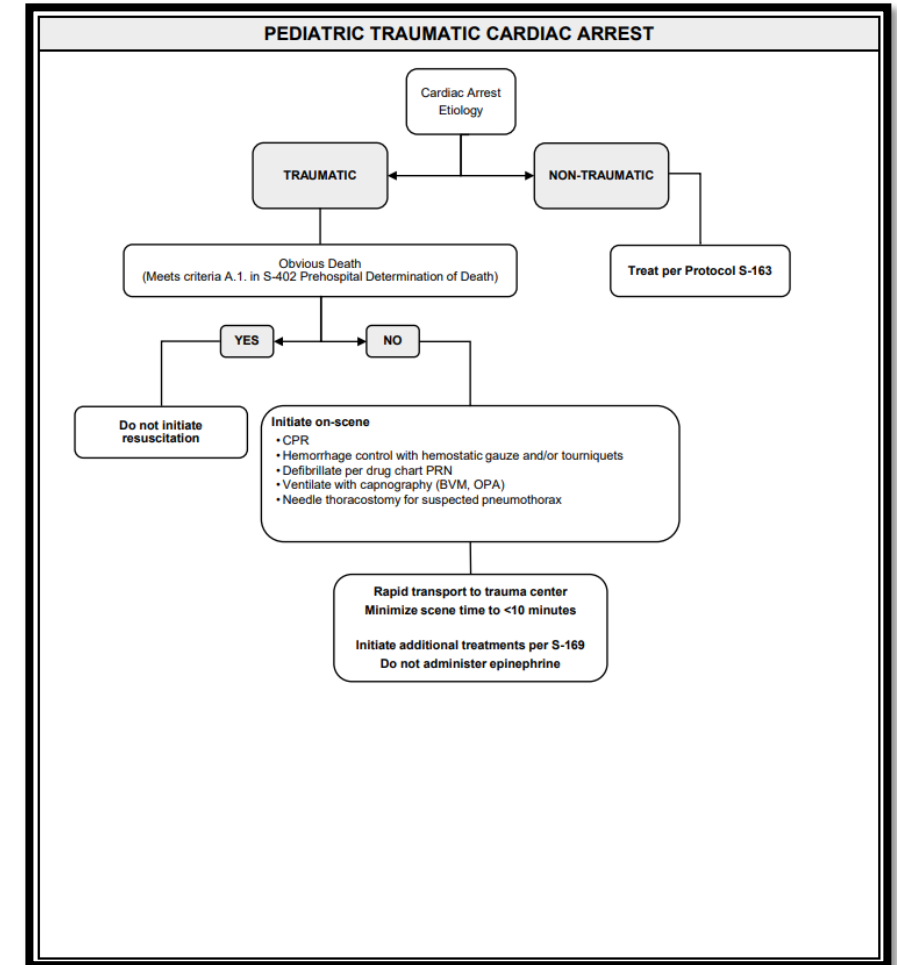


COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

2. EMS Protocol Clarification

Pediatric Traumatic Cardiac Arrest

- Rapid transport of all patients <15 years not meeting obvious death criteria
- Destination
 - Rady Children's (*unless unmanageable airway*)
- Preliminary Data (*prior to this change*)
(includes non-transports as well as transports)
 - 2024 CY: (5) traumatic cardiac arrests
 - 2025 YTD: (2) traumatic cardiac arrests (*captures ~90%*)



3. Cross-Border EMS Pilot

Challenge & Solution (Mission & Goal)

- **Challenge**
 - Patients arriving to border in Mexican ambulances with no advanced notice
 - Receiving treatments not within paramedic scope of practice
- **Mission & Goal**
 - Ensure a patient-centered approach to interfacility transfers between Mexico and San Diego and Imperial Counties
 - Initial pilot: improve communications for Mexican ambulances arriving at San Ysidro Port of Entry

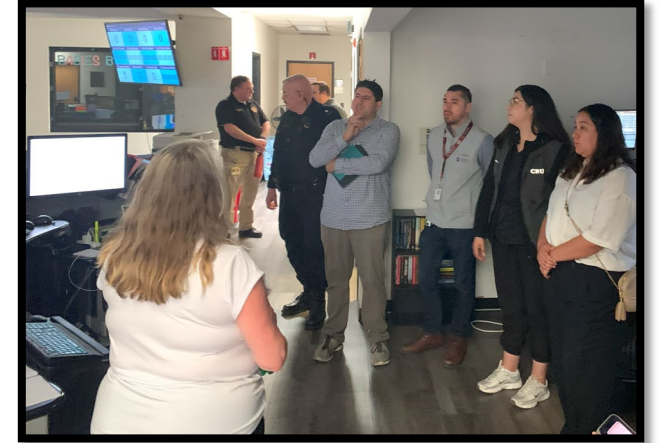


3. Cross-Border EMS Pilot

Partnership between CRUM*, Metro Dispatch, CBP

New Communications Pathway

- Established dedicated phone lines
- Performed multiple practice drills
- Conducted agency-specific trainings
- Collaborative in-person strategic partner training
- Developed Quality Management metrics



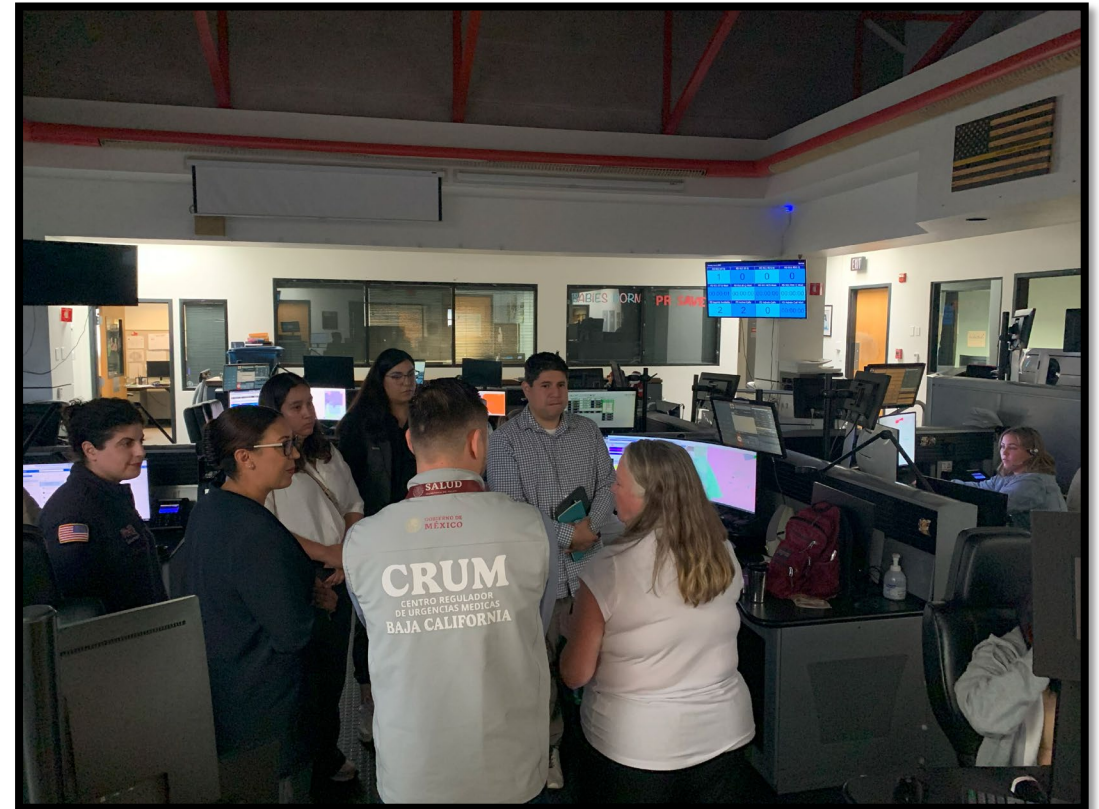
* *Centros Reguladores de Urgencias Médicas (Tijuana 9-1-1)*



3. Cross-Border EMS Pilot

Go Live!

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



4. State of California Updates

EMDAC Meeting June 17, 2025

- **California's 9-1-1 EMS Obstetric Protocols**
 - Presentation by Dr. Diana Ramos, State Surgeon General
 - Local BSPC EBM presentation May 20 ([flyer](#) | [video](#))
- **Law enforcement response to behavioral health calls (panel discussion)**



4. State of California Updates

The Commission on Emergency Medical Services Meeting June 18, 2025

- Unanimously passed emergency temporary regulations
 - Chapter 1, Article 1.2. **Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT)**
 - ~200 public comments received during a 5-day public comment period
 - Planned implementation on or around July 1 (*pending OAL approval*)

Title 22. Social Security

Division 9. Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services

Chapter 1.2 Delivering Equitable and Person-Centered Care - Ambulance Patient Offload Time

- [EMS Commission](#) ***reviews and approves regulations*** developed by EMSA




4. State of California Updates

EMSA APOT Webinar (July 8)


- APOT Audit Tool
- Technical assistance
- Email APOT@emsa.ca.gov
- [Register for Webinar](http://bit.ly/4k4sKUo)



**CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
AUTHORITY (EMSA)**

**TACKLING AMBULANCE PATIENT OFFLOAD
DELAYS: GET READY FOR AB40**

EMSA invites you to an upcoming informational webinar on AB40 Implementation related to ambulance patient offload time (APOT). LEMSAs play an integral part in the audit process to reconcile offload time discrepancies between Hospitals and EMS Providers. Your participation in their webinar and audit process are critical to APOT reduction throughout California.




Don't miss this opportunity to get ahead of the curve on improving offload times and ensuring AB 40 compliance.

Date
Tuesday
July 8, 2025
8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Learn about APOT Audit Tool: Purpose, Goals, Expectations
- How to Register to access and use the APOT Audit Tool
- APOT Audit Tool: Usage and Approach
- Engagement: Working with Hospitals and EMS Providers to facilitate partnership and address discrepancies
- Technical Assistance and Support

SCAN THE QR
CODE OR USE
THE LINK TO
REGISTER:



Questions?
apot@emsa.ca.gov

<http://bit.ly/4k4sKUo>

5. Cardiac Resuscitation Initiatives

Revive & Survive San Diego

Partnership between County of
San Diego EMS and UC San Diego SPH

Goal: One Million

522,037 trained

since January 2024

revivesurvive.ucsd.edu

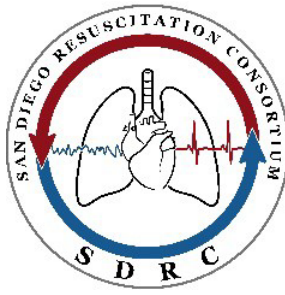


UC San Diego

HERBERT WERTHEIM
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN LONGEVITY SCIENCE



5. Cardiac Resuscitation Initiatives



[Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation \(ECPR\) Pilot Program](#) 2-year anniversary, July 1, 2025

Survivor celebrations ongoing! Reunion on Sunday, June 29: *7 invited survivors with 7 hours of CPR between them*



5. Cardiac Resuscitation Initiatives

Dead for 86 Minutes, Local Mom is Brought Back to Life

EMMY® AWARD RECIPIENTS June 21, 2025
Health/Medical



The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Pacific Southwest Chapter



Anita Lightfoot, County Of San Diego

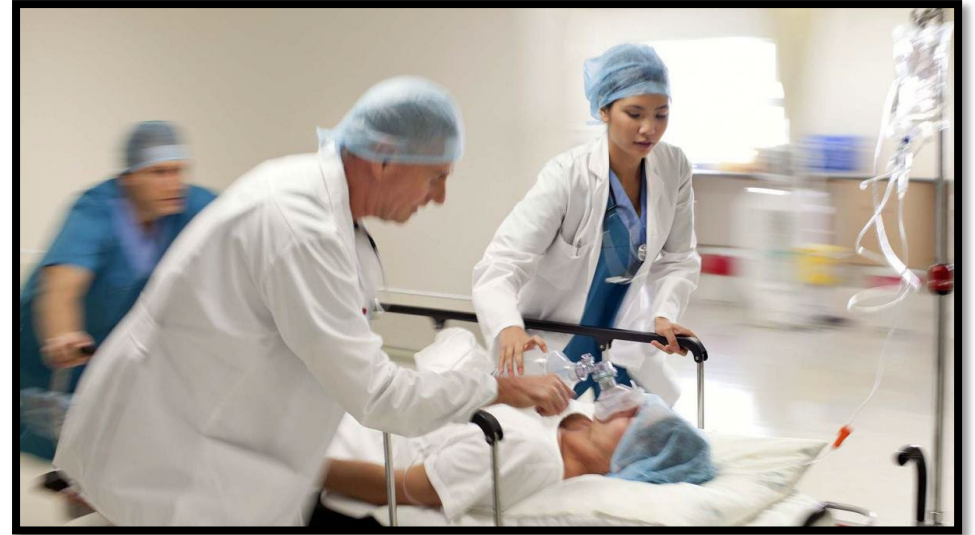


6. QI Initiative

Stroke

Witness Availability

By Dec 2025



1. Decrease time-to-treatment for stroke patients receiving intervention by 10-minutes (*outcome*)
2. **Improve immediate availability of witness information** to stroke treatment team to 75% (*process*)
3. **Improve documentation of witness contact information** in ePCR to 50% (*process*)
4. Improve documentation of last-known well time in Stroke Registry to 90% (*process*)



6. QI Initiative

EMS for Children (EMSC): Pediatric OHCA

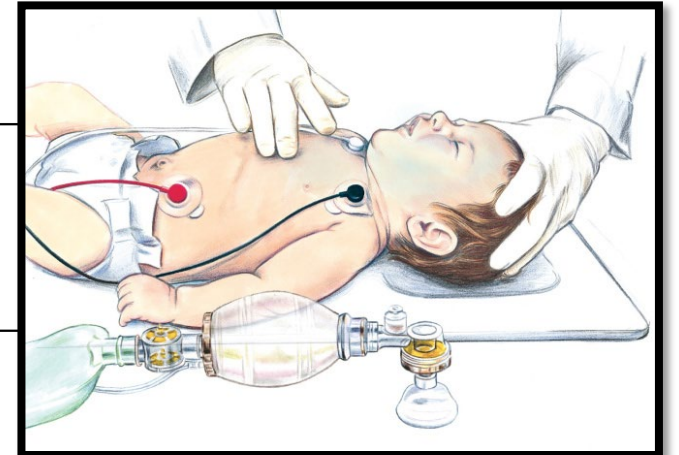
- Cardiac/Chest Compression Fraction (CCF)
 - Proportion of time during CPR that chest compressions are performed
 - Key metric to evaluate CPR quality
 - Directly linked to *improved patient outcomes*

Aim 1: 90% of all Pediatric OHCA will have a CCF > 80% by December 2025

Aim 2: 90% of all Pediatric OHCA will receive epinephrine on-scene by December 2025

Aim 3: 90% of all Pediatric OHCA will have ventilations initiated on-scene by December 2025

Aim 4: Improve neurologically intact survival of Pediatric OHCA by 10% for 2025 compared to 2024



7. Prehospital Blood

HOT TOPIC *(No decision has been made)*

- Starting discussion at July MAC meeting
- National speakers confirmed
 - Jon R. Krohmer, MD
 - Chair, [Prehospital Blood Transfusion Coalition](#)
 - John Holcomb, MD
 - Matthew Angelidis, MD
- Invitees include representatives from Base Hospital/Agency EMS Physicians, Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators, San Diego Blood Bank, Fire/EMS leadership, County of San Diego leadership



7. Prehospital Blood

Sample Questions

- How commonly is prehospital blood being used across the country?
- What type of blood products should be used?
- What are the details of the prehospital protocols?
- What are the key components of education and training?
- How can we get blood to the scene in a timely matter?
- Would a prehospital blood program increase scene time?
- Can 9-1-1 dispatchers identify potential candidates?
- How can we increase the overall blood supply?



Questions?

