April 29, 2022

To: San Diego County EMS and Hospital Community

FROM: Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, County EMS Medical Director
Gary M. Vilke, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, Chair, Base Hospital Physician’s Committee

FORMATION OF THE SAN DIEGO RESUSCITATION CONSORTIUM WORKGROUP

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients meeting specific criteria may benefit from rapid transport to a hospital staffed and equipped to provide extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ECPR) using extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). National and international EMS systems adopting this new resuscitation model have established 24/7 ECPR-capable receiving facilities for these patients.

To explore the feasibility of establishing such a system in San Diego County, we have formed the San Diego Resuscitation Consortium Workgroup. We are tasking Saul Levine, MD, to lead this Workgroup as a subgroup of the Base Station Physicians’ Committee.

This Workgroup will evaluate the feasibility of implementing an ECMO/ECPR program that promotes health equity in an operationalizable, sustainable, and transparent manner. This interdisciplinary Workgroup will be composed of representatives from the prehospital and hospital settings, including emergency physicians, cardiologists, and administrators. Robust quality assurance and data collection will be key components of any proposed ECMO/ECPR system.

This Workgroup will provide monthly progress reports to the EMS Medical Director during regular Base Station Physicians’ Committee meetings. We look forward to receiving the recommendations of the San Diego Resuscitation Consortium Workgroup.

cc: Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Wilma Wooten, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer
Jeff Collins, Director
Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator
Caryn Sumek, Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties