



January 17, 2022

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To: All Professionals in the EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City & Tulsa

Re: Cardiac Arrest Survival for Calendar Year 2020

While it is well known I thoroughly detest the impersonal nature of memos, I am again pleased to have compelling reason to write this one. My comments are based upon your abilities shown in cardiac arrest resuscitations that occurred in our EMS system in calendar year 2020, a particularly challenging year given the emergence of the COVID pandemic.

Given the complexities of finding patient outcomes in an area as large as we serve, it frankly takes a while to make sure we have all the data right from information supplied by you and our hospital partners. We now have answers. The results are expectedly not as encouraging as CY2019. Of note, early all large, urban EMS systems are reporting less success against cardiac arrest for CY2020. Given the dynamics of 2020, I am very proud of your dedicated work towards neurologically intact survival from sudden cardiac arrest and this report does contain many points of success.

The international consensus method for EMS systems in reporting survival from sudden out of hospital cardiac arrest is to report survivability from those cardiac arrests due to heart-related conditions that are witnessed prior to EMS care, that then receive bystander CPR (often initiated via phone direction by emergency medical dispatchers in our system – great job!), and that are subsequently found in a rhythm that is appropriate to defibrillate by automated or manual defibrillator. While we often highlight the outcomes of these specific patients, our EMS system (aka YOU) certainly have saved many victims of other forms of cardiac arrest, and it is important that we all recognize such.

In calendar year 2020, you and your colleagues achieved a survival rate of 26.76% in sudden cardiac arrest victims that had witnessed collapse, received bystander CPR, and required defibrillation upon EMS system arrival.

Among the 19 individuals that make up that 26.76% number above, fully 18 of the 19 (that's 94.7%!) survived in full or nearly full neurologically intact status. Amazing.

Additionally, the total number of sudden cardiac arrest survivors due to your heroic work for 2020 is 106! That's a survivor because of you and your colleagues every 3.4 days.

On behalf of these patients, their families, and the Medical Control Board/Office of the Medical Director, thank you for your dedication to excellence in out of hospital emergency medical care.

We are proud of your commitment to lifesaving. YOU make a difference in these communities, and YOU serve as a role model cardiac arrest resuscitator for professionals to follow around the world.

To view the Annual Resuscitation Report from the Division Chief of Critical Care Analytics: 2020, please visit www.okctulomd.com and select this report under the “Annual Reports” tab found within the headings line at the top of the homepage. This direct link is also provided for your convenience: http://okctulomd.com/assets/front/omd_materials/annual_report/2020_Annual_Resuscitation_Report_2.pdf

Well done in a VERY challenging year! The OMD team is fully committed to supporting you and our patients through innovative treatment protocols, education, and training. Let’s keep saving more lives in 2022.

Dr. G