



**Prehospital Emergency Services  
Current Awareness Update  
Issue 91, June/July 2021**

The aim of this Current Awareness Update is to provide a digest of information supporting evidence based practice in prehospital emergency services.

The issue name relates to when the contained articles were published- the bulletin is published the following month once the national bulletin has been issued.

This is an edited version of  
the update for SWASFT staff

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*Prehospital Emergency Services Current Awareness Update – Issue 91, June/July 2021*

**With thanks to Matt Holland, LKS ASE Librarian** (on behalf of the National Ambulance Research Steering Group).

*This Current Awareness Update was commissioned by the National Ambulance Research Steering Group comprising of research leads from ambulance trusts in England, Scotland and Wales and other experts and groups supporting prehospital research. The aim of the group is to support the strategic development of ambulance and prehospital research whether leading, collaborating in or using research.*

The research papers have been arranged by the topic headings below:

[Prehospital Practitioners – Professional Development](#)

[Prehospital Research – Methods and Discussion](#)

[Diagnosis & Triage](#)

[Patient Profile](#)

[Helicopter Emergency Medical Services](#)

[On-Scene Interventions](#)

[Airway Management, Resuscitation & CPR](#)

[Further Research Needed](#)

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Barrett, J. W., Eaton-Williams, P., Mortimer, C. E., Land, V. F., & Williams, J. (2021). A survey of ambulance clinicians' perceptions of recording and communicating patient information electronically [Text]. *British Paramedic Journal*, 6(1), 1-7.

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## Prehospital Research – Methods and Discussion

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## Diagnosis and Triage

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## Patient Profile

### Children

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## Helicopter Emergency Medical Services

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## Airway Management, Resuscitation & CPR

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## Further Research Needed

Bonner, M., Capsey, M., & Batey, J. (2021). A paramedic's role in reducing number of falls and fall-related emergency service use by over 65s: a systematic review [Text]. *British Paramedic Journal*, 6(1), 46-52.

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**Conclusions:** The relationship between paramedics and local falls services has changed the pre-hospital management of these patients. Generally, access to a falls-specific care package has proved beneficial in supporting independence and reducing unnecessary transport to hospital. **Further research into the uptake of this care pathway by paramedics now it is more established may be useful, as would research into barriers to adherence of the elderly to such an intervention.**

Charlton, K., Limmer, M., & Moore, H. (2021). Incidence of emergency calls and out-of-hospital cardiac arrest deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic: findings from a cross-sectional study in a UK ambulance service. *Emergency Medicine Journal*, 38(6), 446-449.

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**Conclusions:** Incidence of emergency calls were reduced during the pandemic compared with 2019. There was a rise in incidence of OHCA and OHCA deaths during the same period; however, these changes appear transient. **Further research is required to understand patient behaviour towards seeking help during the pandemic and the long-term consequences of not doing so.**

Leduc, S., et al. (2021). The Safety and Effectiveness of On-Site Paramedic and Allied Health Treatment Interventions Targeting the Reduction of Emergency Department Visits by Long-Term Care Patients: Systematic Review. *Prehospital Emergency Care*, 25(4), 556-565.

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**Conclusion:** We found five types of programs/interventions which all demonstrated a decrease in ED visits or hospitalization. However, most studies were observational and few assessed patient safety. Many identified programs focused on increased primary care for patients, and **interventions addressing acute care issues, such as community paramedics, deserve more study.**

Mercer, C. B., Ball, M., Cash, R. E., Rivard, M. K., Chrzan, K., & Panchal, A. R. (2021). Ultrasound Use in the Prehospital Setting for Trauma: A Systematic Review. *Prehospital Emergency Care*, 25(4), 566-582.

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**Conclusion:** Ultrasound use in the prehospital setting for trauma is feasible and demonstrates potential. However, the evidence in the medical literature mainly consists of prospective observational studies of physicians utilizing ultrasound for trauma in a HEMS setting. **Further scientific research must be undertaken to firmly establish the role of prehospital ultrasound in trauma management by all types of EMS providers.**

Popp, L.M., et al. (2021). Prehospital Cross-Sectional Study of Drowning Patients Across the United States. Wilderness & environmental medicine.

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**Conclusions:** This national prehospital drowning study demonstrated that despite an 18% fatality rate in drowning encounters, patients were more likely to have return of spontaneous circulation when compared to the overall prehospital national average, with rates higher in pediatric patients.

**Future studies with outcomes data should focus on identifying factors that improve cardiopulmonary resuscitation success rates.**

## New Ebooks and other resources

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- [Minor Emergencies](#)
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