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RE: Santa Barbara County's Cardiac System of Care Fact sheet

The Santa Barbara County Cardiac System of Care is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary program that coordinates the care of all patients with major heart attacks and those suffering from sudden cardiac arrest. Every part of the EMS System is utilized to care for these patients from the 9-1-1 dispatchers, to pre-hospital providers and hospitals.

A heart attack –otherwise known as a Myocardial Infarction – is due to a blocked artery that supplies blood to the heart muscle. Without continuous blood supply, that portion of heart muscle will begin to die within minutes. ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) is the most serious type of heart attack. The goal of treatment is to reopen the blocked artery as quickly as possible. Since its inception in 2010, the County EMS Agency's STEMI system has met or exceeded the national standards for the rapid identification and treatment of these patients. All paramedics are able to perform ECGs (electrocardiograms, or readings of the heart's electrical activity) to identify STEMI and these patients are taken to one of our two STEMI receiving Centers (SRC), Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and Marian Regional Medical Center.

One of the complications of a heart attack is Sudden Cardiac Arrest, where, due to an electrical instability, the heart stops beating. One of the most important treatments is immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early defibrillation (electrical shock to the heart). Delays in these two critical treatments significantly decrease a person's chance of survival. The Cardiac Arrest Management (CAM) Program, which launched in 2012, is supported by a committed, multidisciplinary group of EMS providers reviewing patient outcomes, revising treatment protocols, training and education. CAM is a highly structured resuscitation method in which pre-hospital providers work in a coordinated manner to deliver high-quality CPR to patients in cardiac arrest. Santa Barbara County's Cardiac Arrest survival rate is one best in the Country for patients in a heart rhythm that requires defibrillation. The survival rate has increased from 25% in 2012 to 41% in 2019. This rivals the best performing EMS systems in the world.

CAM has been presented at the European Resuscitation Council's 2015 meeting and at the 2016 Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update, where it won an award for educational excellence.