

Spring 2019

Your Partner in Education

Lifelong learning is an expectation among EMS professionals. But it's more than an exercise to maintain credentials; it's a service we owe our patients, whose outcomes we can influence with greater knowledge.

Each year, OhioHealth invites EMS professionals to participate in special events we believe will advance your professional development journey. This year is no different. We are excited to again bring you two in-depth education opportunities featuring nationally known presenters.

11th Annual Ohio EMS Conference

We will come together at the Greater Columbus Convention Center May 20–21 to celebrate National EMS Week and recognize the contributions of EMS professionals in our local communities. Six keynote speakers will join us, including Michael Hingson, author of a No. 1 New York Times Best Seller about his experience in the World Trade Center during the 9/11 attack. General sessions and conference breakout tracks will address resuscitation, EMS Educator continuing education, health and wellness, and EMS operations.

Our Franklin County Firefighters and Grant Medical Center EMS Education Alumni event will now be a private luncheon during the conference, and Michael Hingson will be our guest on day one. If you are an EMT, paramedic graduate or student in our program, we hope to see you there!

Also, many thanks to those who took time to nominate fellow EMS for our awards. Recipients will be announced during the conference.

Help us beat last year's attendance record of 1,700 attendees! Visit OhioHealthEMS.com to register, view an agenda and learn more about our speakers. Walk-ins are also accepted. If you have questions, call (614) 566.9111.

OhioHealth Neuroscience Symposium

On May 17, we will hear from some of the brightest minds in neuroscience at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Keynote speakers include Bennet Omalu, MD, the first physician to diagnose chronic traumatic encephalopathy in NFL athletes, and Bret Hart, a former professional wrestler and stroke survivor.

The Neuroscience Symposium is valuable for anyone who assesses or treats neurologic patients. [Register online](#) today.

We look forward to seeing you at these events! Thank you for all that you do each day, and for your commitment to ongoing education.

*Holly Herron, DNP, RN, CNP
System Director, OhioHealth EMS*

*Michelle Hill, MS, RN, AGCNS-BC
Comprehensive Stroke Program Coordinator*

IN THE FIELD

Calming Schizophrenic Patients

*Megan Schabbing, MD
Medical Director, Psychiatric Emergency Services
Behavioral Health, OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital*

Imagine you are called to the home of a 35-year-old male with paranoid schizophrenia. His family tells you he has not taken his antipsychotic medication for the past month, and has become increasingly paranoid, unplugging all appliances, nailing the windows shut, and locking himself in his room. He allegedly attacked his father when his father attempted to convince him to go to the emergency department. When you arrive at the home, the patient is uncooperative and agitated.

In cases like these, it is important to remember that schizophrenic patients may incorporate the people around them into their delusional system, including healthcare providers such as yourself.

Paranoid schizophrenia is a type of mental disorder characterized by paranoid delusions, or false fixed beliefs, as well as auditory or visual hallucinations. People with this disorder often lack insight into their illness, which can drive noncompliance with medication. Delusions and hallucinations are the result of abnormal function in the dopaminergic system in the brain, which is due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors. The treatment of choice for schizophrenic patients is antipsychotic medication, which blocks dopamine receptors in the brain, restoring balance to the dopaminergic system.

When caring for schizophrenic patients who appear angry with you, don't take it personally. In addition to giving antipsychotic medication (such as ziprasidone or haloperidol), try using verbal de-escalation techniques. Speaking quietly, giving the patient adequate space, and appearing calm and confident can help the patient to feel less threatened.

SERVICE LINE FEATURE

Freestanding Emergency Departments and Behavioral Health

*Thomas J. Gavin, MD, MBA
Medical Director, Freestanding Emergency Department
Network
Mid-Ohio Emergency Services*

There is often confusion about how freestanding emergency departments fit in the continuum of care. A question I hear frequently is, "Can EMS use the freestanding EDs for behavioral health patients?" The answer is, it depends.

OhioHealth's freestanding EDs on the Westerville and Pickerington Medical Campuses are fully equipped to handle most behavioral health emergencies. They have 16 beds, on-site security officers and a psychiatric social worker 12 hours per day. But our smaller freestanding EDs in Hilliard, Powell, New Albany, Reynoldsburg and Obetz are not designed to provide the intensive, one-on-one observation needed to complete a psychiatric evaluation. Our staff at these locations is leaner, and even intoxicated patients require a one-on-one observer at all times.

I hope this brief explanation gives you a better understanding of how to use our freestanding EDs for behavioral health patients. We are also establishing a work group through the Central Ohio Trauma System to adjust the freestanding ED guide for EMS. The new guidelines will help ensure safety at our care sites by directing patients to the most appropriate place for care.

EDUCATION CALENDAR

EMS Regional Quarterly Update

OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital
Friday, April 26

OhioHealth Neuroscience Symposium

Greater Columbus Convention Center
Friday, May 17

Ohio EMS Conference

Greater Columbus Convention Center
Monday and Tuesday, May 20–21

[Additional Outreach Education opportunities](#)

CASE STUDY

The physical exam is a powerful tool. See how one patient with an unusual presentation of acute inferior myocardial infarction could have been diagnosed through the simple act of auscultation.

[READ MORE](#)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

New Regional Education

*Holly Herron, DNP, RN, CNP
System Director, OhioHealth EMS*

Continuing education is a duty to the patients we serve, ourselves and the EMS profession. That's why I'm excited to share two new ways we're making it easier to access learning opportunities in Delaware and Mansfield.

Monthly "Night Out" series

OhioHealth EMS now hosts a monthly "Night Out" continuing education series from 7–8:30 p.m. at OhioHealth Grady Memorial Hospital (first Wednesdays) and OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital (second Wednesdays). The series has received outstanding reviews and attendance. Each session covers timely topics in EMS, heart, neuroscience or trauma services. Simulation learning will also be offered throughout the year. Watch for monthly flyers that announce the topic, meeting location and any changes to dates or times.

On-site conferences

All-day EMS Quarterly Update conferences will now take place annually, on-site at Grady Memorial and Mansfield Hospital, with free breakfast and lunch. The first conference took place at Grady Memorial on March 9. The conference at Mansfield Hospital will take place Friday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Register for these events at OhioHealthEMS.com. Walk-ins are also welcome.

FAST FACTS FOR HEPATITIS A

*Robert A Lowe, MD, FACEP, FAEMS
System Medical Director,
OhioHealth EMS*

- Hepatitis A is a viral liver disease that can cause mild to severe illness.
- It is rarely fatal, but can be when treatments are delayed or other illnesses and risk factors are involved.
- Hepatitis A is transmitted through contaminated food and water or direct contact with an infected person.
- Handwashing with soap and water is more effective than using alcohol-based sanitizers. Hand washing is always preferred when hands are visibly soiled or contaminated.
- A vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis A. Local public health agencies recommend the vaccine for first responders and medical providers at risk for exposure.
- As of March 11, the Ohio Department of Health has confirmed:
 - 1,931 cases of hepatitis A since January 2018.
 - 294 cases of Hepatitis A in Franklin County, 286 cases in Butler County and 212 cases in Montgomery County.
 - 1,194 (62 percent) hospitalizations and seven deaths.

Please visit OhioHealthEMS.com for more information about our EMS programs.