JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Prehospital Thrombolytic Therapy

The Wait for an Ambulance

System Status Management: A Street View





James O. Page, Publisher Keith Griffiths, Executive Editor Cleve Trimble, MD, Medical Editor Rick Minerd, Senior Editor Dana A. Jarvis, Production Editor Gary R. Williams, Director of Marketing Thom Dick, Associate Editor Lisa J. Cota, Advertising Manager Susan Seymour, Circulation Manager Ron St. Germain, Assistant Editor Robyn Linderman, Executive Assistant David M. Beck, Assistant Editor Gail Westmoreland, Copy Editor Theresa Breining, Conference Manager Ronale Tucker, Editorial Intern Krista Beh, Editorial Intern Contributing Editors: Garry Briese, Norm Dinerman, MD, Mike Frank, MD, Gary Morris, Mary Newman, William

Jems Publishing Company, Inc.

Kathleen Wohlwend, Art Director

Roush, MD

James O. Page Chairman of the Board

Gary R. Williams President

Keith Griffiths Secretary-Treasurer

Editorial/Advertising Offices 215 South Highway 101, Suite 100 P.O. Box 1026 Solana Beach, CA 92075 619/481-1128

jems, Journal of Emergency Medical Services, (ISSN 0197-2510; Fed. ID #22-2357324) is published monthly by Jems Publishing Co., 215 South Highway 101, Suite 100, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075.

Subscription information: Send \$17.95 for one year (12 issues), \$29.95 for two years (24 issues) or \$39.95 for three years (36 issues) to P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128. Add \$6 per year for Canadian subscriptions, \$12 per year for foreign subscriptions. For subscription orders, problems or for a change of address, call toll free in the 48 contiguous states: 800/321-3333 (in California call 800/354-8400).

Advertising information: Rates are available upon request. Contact Lisa J. Cota, advertising manager at 215 South Highway 101, Suite 100, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075; 619/481-1128.

Editorial information: Manuscripts and queries should be directed to Keith Griffiths, editor, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Editorial guidelines are available upon request. Submitted manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted in triplicate.

Microfiche: jems is available on microfiche. Please direct inquiries to Bell & Howell, Micro Photo Division, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, OH 44691; 800/321-9881 (in Ohio, call 216/264-6666 collect).

Copyright 1986 Jems Publishing Co., Inc. No material can be reproduced without the express permission of the publisher. ISSN 0197-2510; (Fed. I.D. #22-2357324).

Postmaster: Return Form 3579 to jems, P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128.

Second-class circulation postage paid at Solana Beach, California and at additional mailing offices.

CONTENTS

DECEMBER 1986 VOL. 11 NO. 12

Features

- 42 Chest Pain in a Young Male BY HOWARD A. WERMAN, MD. When a young male patient is presented with severe chest pain, important causes of the pain must be considered.
- 48 A View from the Street BY THOMAS G. HOUGH. System status management (SSM) is a relatively new technique that can be expected to be in operation in many EMS systems in the near future.
- 67 The Wait for an Ambulance BY GEORGE K. BARTON, MBA, EMTP. Queuing theory is a process that determines how many ambulances will be necessary to meet calls for service in an efficient manner. It also provides objective information to modify previously committed resources.
- 72 Thrombolytic Therapy BY MIKEL A. ROTHENBERG, MD. Ninety percent of patients suffering an acute myocardial infarction have a thrombus in the affected coronary artery in the first four hours. Prehospital providers will have an increasing role in facilitating appropriate therapy.

Departments

- 4 Editorial A Fresh Approach.
- 5 Guest Comment "Why Bother?" by Tim Fleming, MD.
- 7 Letters Needed Improvements; Teachers Talk; Philly EMTs Unite; Spreading the Magic; Discriminating Colors; Just Compensation?; Practicum Praise; Dispatch Protocol.
- Inside EMS Reports on the ASHBEAMS/NFNA meeting and MIEMSS Symposium; Use of Regular Gas Finally Stopped; EMS Death Benefits Act Amended; EMS Workers Feel Unjustly Compen-

- sated; FAA Orders New Paint on Fire Apparatus.
- 40 Calendar
- 77 Innovations The Hearing Aid; New Stethoscope Invalidates Old Excuses by Thom Dick.
- 82 Classifieds
- 95 Inroads Conversion Kit; Hazmat Absorbers; Aspiration Pump; Hand Moulage.
- 96 In the Industry
- 97 Advertiser Directory

Columns

- **Around the Nation** *by David M. Beck* Baby Delivered After Mother Commits Suicide; District of Columbia Firefighters Exemplify National AIDS Fear; Boy Revived After River Rescue; Custom Transfer Vehicle Built by Maine Ambulance Service.
- **38** Current Research by Bruce Goldfarb Hazard of IV Drug Abuse; Keeping an Eye on Oxygen Tension; EMS Utilization; Aid for Seizures.
- 41 Tricks of the Trade by Thom Dick Talking Gloves.
- 78 The Legal File by C.J. Shanaberger Religion vs. Medical Treatment.
- 80 Public Forum by Dennis Murphy Where's the Beef?
- 87 Clinical Q & A by Scott Bourn The Role of Calcium in ACLS.
- 89 Interface by Jack Stout Computer-Aided What?
- 98 Publisher's Page by James O. Page Forced Retirement.

Cover photo by Ed Kessler.