regard to the retrospective study design, the findings challenge current guideline recommendations regarding PHECG in patients with acute stroke.

Conflict of interest None

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### Abstracts

#### PARENTS’ EXPERIENCES OF THE CARING ENCOUNTER IN THE AMBULANCE SERVICE- A QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW STUDY

Karlsson*, 1,2,3 K Årestedt, 1,5 B Wireklint Sundström. 1Samariten Ambulance, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Academic EMS, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Karolinska Institutet, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences, and Society Division of Nursing Stockholm, Sweden; 4The Ambulance Medical Service in Stockholm (AISAB), Sweden

Aim Based on guidelines developed by EMS physicians, registered nurses in the Swedish ambulance services sometimes by-pass the emergency department and refer non-urgent patients to primary care and self-care. However, these referrals are associated with problems that may jeopardise patient safety and patient participation. The aim was to identify the EMS physicians’ perceptions of ambulance nurses’ responsibilities and prerequisites to refer patients to primary care and self-care.

Method A national survey of all EMS physicians (n=51) using study specific questions with close-ended and open response options, analysed with descriptive statistics and thematic analysis.

Results The response rate was 78% (n=41). The majority of the physicians (95%) perceived that nurses should be able to refer patients to primary care and self-care. One fourth (25%) perceived specialist nurses in ambulance care as the most appropriate professionals. The majority of the physicians (65%) perceived that referral to primary care maintain patient safety, whereas fewer (50%) assessed the referral as safe for the patient. All perceived that feedback should be given to nurses when the referral was incorrect. The majority perceived it important to extend the nurses’ authority to refer to primary care (63%) and self-care (55%).

Conclusion There is no consensus among the EMS physicians regarding responsibilities and conditions for nurses’ referral of patients. Registered nurses with basic education are expected to be able to refer, while there is varying opinion regarding requirements of specialist trained ambulance nurses to refer patients. Professional experience as a nurse is perceived more important than formal education.

Conflict of interest None

Funding Division of Emergency Medical Services, Helsingborg County Hospital, Helsingborg, Sweden.

#### SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH: AS SUDDEN AS COMMONLY THOUGHT OR DO WE KNOW OUR PATIENTS BEFORE?

K. Heim,*, 1–3 K. Beckers, 1 N. Lenssen, 1 R. Rossaint, 1 M. Felzen. 1Department of Anaesthesiology, University Hospital RWTH Aachen, Medical faculty RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany; 2Medical Direction, Emergency Medical Service, City of Aachen, Aachen, Germany

Aim About 100,000 people per year suffer from sudden cardiac death in Germany.1 In most of the cases (75%) this is cardiac-associated.2 According to this it appears to be probable that many patients did already have pre-existing cardiac diseases and might have been under medical treatment before. The aim of this study was to evaluate how many patients, who suffered from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA), had documented diagnoses in the appropriate CA centre before.

Method In this retrospective, observational study data was analysed based on the local documentation in the German Resuscitation Registry of the Emergency Medical Service of the city of Aachen. This data was matched with documentation of the local CA centre concerning pre-existing conditions and diagnoses for a five-year period (2012 to 2016).

Results Overall 904 patients (Mean age 70±18 years) suffered from OHCA. Among these 41,9% (n=379) have been under medical treatment because of cardiac problems. The response rate was 78% (n=41). The majority of the physicians (95%) perceived that nurses should be able to refer patients to primary care and self-care. One fourth (25%) perceived specialist nurses in ambulance care as the most appropriate professionals. The majority of the physicians (65%) perceived that referral to primary care maintain patient safety, whereas fewer (50%) assessed the referral as safe for the patient. All perceived that feedback should be given to nurses when the referral was incorrect. The majority perceived it important to extend the nurses’ authority to refer to primary care (63%) and self-care (55%).

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Conflict of interest None

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Funding Division of Emergency Medical Services, Helsingborg County Hospital, Helsingborg, Sweden.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PHYSICIANS’ PERCEPTIONS OF AMBULANCE NURSES’ RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFERRING PATIENTS TO PRIMARY CARE AND SELF-CARE – A SWEDISH NATIONAL SURVEY

Bremer*, 1,2 A. Bremer, 1,2 Å. Wrexkland Sundström. 1Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Linnaeus University, Växjö/Kalmar, Sweden; 2Division of Emergency Medical Services, Kalmar County Hospital, Kalmar, Sweden; 3University of Borås, Sweden, PreHospital – Centre for Prehospital Research; 4Division of Emergency Medical Services, Helsingborg County Hospital, Helsingborg, Sweden; 5The Research Unit, Kalmar County Hospital, Kalmar, Sweden; 6University of Borås, Sweden, Faculty of Caring Science, Work Life and Social Welfare

Aim Based on guidelines developed by EMS physicians, registered nurses in the Swedish ambulance services sometimes by-pass the emergency department and refer non-urgent patients to primary care and self-care. However, these referrals are associated with problems that may jeopardise patient safety and patient participation. The aim was to identify the EMS physicians’ perceptions of ambulance nurses’ responsibilities and prerequisites to refer patients to primary care and self-care.

Method A national survey of all EMS physicians (n=51) using study specific questions with close-ended and open response options, analysed with descriptive statistics and thematic analysis.

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Conclusion There is no consensus among the EMS physicians regarding responsibilities and conditions for nurses’ referral of patients. Registered nurses with basic education are expected to be able to refer, while there is varying opinion regarding requirements of specialist trained ambulance nurses to refer patients. Professional experience as a nurse is perceived more important than formal education.

Conflict of interest None

Funding None

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