STEMI PATHWAYS: MANAGEMENT OF STEMI PATIENTS IN CENTRAL OHIO

AUTHORS:
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Problem Statement:
Treatment of STEMI (ST-elevation myocardial infarction) patients across the Central Ohio region widely varies depending on geographic location and access to resources. A need for development of standards of care existed for coordination of complete and appropriate care of STEMI patients in this region.

Project Description:
Methods: The American Heart Association (AHA) created Mission: Lifeline (M:L) in 2009 as a response to missed opportunities for prompt, appropriate STEMI treatment. Three major hospital systems, five individual PCI hospitals, (total of 13 competing hospitals), Emergency Medical Services, and referral hospitals came together in central Ohio to form the Central Ohio Regional STEMI System (CORSS). The CORSS team developed STEMI care pathways originating from the Accelerator project with Duke Clinical Research Institute. The pathways of care have a significant impact for regional system partners to decrease the time for diagnosis and treatment of acute myocardial infarction. Regional leadership was established including leading Cardiology and Emergency physicians, hospital administrators and EMS agencies in Central Ohio. The pathways empower EMS and non-PCI emergency departments to determine best reperfusion plan and most appropriate destination protocol.

Results:
This group demonstrates significant collaboration among competing hospital systems for BEST PRACTICE within our community and across the region. Our results highlighted the opportunity to shift the focus from hospital door to first medical contact to improve regional STEMI care.

Conclusions:
Organizing regional STEMI care results in significant improvements in the percent of patients receiving reperfusion goals. Lower mortality rates were identified among regions compared to national rates, suggesting that regional STEMI care programs can provide important improvements in public health.