7.0
Quality Assurance/Improvement and Research
QI Research

Quality improvement efforts are essential to peak performance. Only when we assess and evaluate what we are doing can we improve. While QI is important for all aspects of an EMS agency, here are just a few ideas specifically related to cardiac arrest.

- Monitor mean and 90% fractile response times for defibrillation-capable first responders and for the EMS unit (specifically the ALS unit for ALS agencies).
- Review and provide feedback to crew for every cardiac arrest, including adherence to protocol, CPR fraction (percent of time that chest compressions were being delivered while patient pulseless), timeliness of defibrillation, post arrest care and destination decision.
- Monitor patient outcomes after cardiac arrest if possible through collaboration with receiving hospitals.

EMS agencies should consider collaboration with local medical schools and teaching hospitals to participate in research efforts. Only with high quality research will we be able to advance our knowledge about how to best care for patients in the pre-hospital setting.