

**JAN 14 2016**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Paramedic Service Chiefs, First Nations and Ornge

**FROM:** Tarmo Uukkivi  
Director  
Emergency Health Services Branch

**RE:** **Continuous chest compressions (CCC)**

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Clinical research is fundamental to the practice of medicine and the development of safer, more effective treatment options for patients. The Emergency Health Services Branch (EHSB) acknowledges and supports research trials in the pre-hospital field in an effort to better inform provincial standards and evidence-based practice.

In 2011, the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium's (ROC) Continuous Chest Compressions (CCC) Trial launched at several paramedic services across Ontario. The trial aimed to compare survival to hospital discharge after CCC versus standard American Heart Association (AHA) recommended cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for patients experiencing out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

On November 9, 2015, "Trial of Continuous or Interrupted Chest Compressions during CPR" was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Nichol et al., 2016); the article concluded equipoise between the two CPR methods.

A review of the article's findings, in addition to other provincial considerations, led EHSB to conduct a feasibility analysis on the potential of continued use of CCC. Based on this analysis, coupled with a recent recommendation made by the Ontario Base Hospital Group Medical Advisory Committee (OBHG-MAC), I am writing to affirm that any paramedic service still utilizing CCC (or the Trial Research Medical Directive) cease use and revert back to the provincial standards for cardiac arrest management (*i.e.* the *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards* and *Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards*).

Introduction of research trials, and transition back to provincial standards at the conclusion of the trial period, must be carried out in a coordinated manner. Future correspondence will be released from EHSB confirming the process required to initiate and execute such trials.

**Continuous chest compressions (CCC)**

**Page 2**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those that participated in the CCC Trial, which was the largest out-of-hospital cardiac arrest trial ever performed.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Corey Freedman, Paramedic Standards and Certification Coordinator at (416) 326-3608 or [corey.freedman@ontario.ca](mailto:corey.freedman@ontario.ca).



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Tarmo Uukkivi

- c: Senior Managers/Managers, EHSB
- Dr. M. Lewell, Chair, OBHG-MAC
- S. Kriening, Chair, OBHG-Executive
- N. Gale, President, OAPC
- Regional Training Coordinators