



# GP News



*"The London Ambulance Service (LAS) believes it is important to keep in touch with GPs. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and we welcome your feedback."*

May 2014

## Falls & rapid response

Elderly fallers constitute a large part of our work (1,000+ incidents per month). After careful assessment supported by clinical decision support algorithms, which exclude the potentially life threatening and serious conditions, our staff work reductively to the lower acuity of presentations.



### How do we help elderly fallers?

- Currently just under 70% of patients are taken to the local A&E. Some patients just require assistance.
- Crews discuss management with primary care clinicians - often the GP (about 8%) – but they may also refer to community nursing and rapid response/falls teams depending on local pathway availability.
- For those deemed safe to be left at home, we fax practices a falls form the next day (currently 200-300 sent per month) with information about the patient. We hope this assists in patient management.

Developing safe and readily accessible falls/rapid response pathways has its challenges. We are actively working more closely with primary care to avoid unnecessary A&E attendances. Approximately 3-4% of patients we attend subsequently decline any help from crews. Where there are patient safety concerns a discussion with a GP can be very helpful.

**Elderly falls algorithm** - a copy can be downloaded from our website:

[www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/health\\_professionals/gp\\_information/documents\\_and\\_guidelines-1.aspx](http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/health_professionals/gp_information/documents_and_guidelines-1.aspx)



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## Defibrillator campaign



The London Ambulance Service has launched a campaign to get 1,000 extra defibrillators into shops, businesses and gyms across the capital because it's shockingly easy to save a life in London.

The campaign was launched on 1st May at Oxford Street Marks & Spencer. The company is fitting defibrillators in its 86 London stores. Ex-footballer Fabrice Muamba, who was famously shocked back to life with a defibrillator after going into cardiac arrest during a football match, attended the event to lend his support to the campaign.

Our Chairman, Richard Hunt, says: "Don't leave it too late to do the right thing. Every shop, gym, hotel and office in London should have a defibrillator so they're ready to save a Londoner's life. And they cost very little – it really is just the paper clip budget."

### LAS Defibrillator Accreditation Scheme

- We offer guidance and support in buying, storing and using a defibrillator and can assist with ongoing maintenance.
- If you already have a defibrillator, you can still join our accreditation scheme and help save lives in the capital.

### GP Surgeries

- There are 1215 surgeries in London and 16% do not have a defibrillator.
- If you are one of the 200 surgeries without a defib, please call us on **020 7783 2366** and ask about our accreditation scheme.

To find out more, please visit:

[www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/shockinglyeasy](http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/shockinglyeasy)



## ~ Cardiac Arrests ~ Knowing the facts!

- There are over 10,000 cardiac arrests every year in London – that's 27 a day.
- 28% of people survive an 'out of hospital' cardiac arrest but, where there is a defib and someone trained to use it, the chance of survival can increase to 80%.
- Every minute without resuscitation and defibrillation, a person's chances of survival are reduced by around 10%.

