



"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."

Cardiac Arrest report



More cardiac arrest patients than ever are showing signs of initial improvement when treated by LAS staff, according to our 2012/13 **cardiac arrest annual report** released on 16th September.

32% of patients had a return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) on arrival at hospital compared to 30% the year before; that is 223 more patients who were **successfully resuscitated**. However, the survival rate for patients who suffered a bystander-witnessed cardiac arrest and whose heart was in a rhythm that could be shocked by a **defibrillator** decreased from 32 to 28% (Utstein rate).

Medical Director Fionna Moore said: "Although the **survival rate** is lower, we continue to provide **high-quality care** to our cardiac arrest patients. This is evident from the response times and successful resuscitation outcomes. We are now taking more patients with ROSC and a diagnosed STEMI directly to a heart attack centre giving them the best chance of survival. Almost 50% of these patients go on to be discharged from hospital."

Read more - to request a copy of the report, please write to sarah.joy@lond-amb.nhs.uk

Working with Commissioners

How is the LAS commissioned?

Director of Commissioning, Mark Docherty, who works for NWL Commissioning Support Unit meets the **32 London CCGs** every month and commissions the ambulance service on their behalf; this includes everything from the hazardous area response team and 999 service to clinical telephone advice.

Every year, **contract negotiations** take place over several months. LAS Commissioning Manager, Naura Carneiro de Melo explains: "Discussions start in September for the next year's contract. By December the team is getting into the fine detail, with the national requirement for negotiations to be finished and the contract signed off by 31 March."

Cost Effective: Dr Agnelo Fernandes is Assistant Clinical Chair of Croydon CCG. Agnelo, who works as a GP, said that as the NHS transforms, it's important to "make the patient pathway as seamless as possible." He added: "The aim is for the patient to be seen in the right place by the right person at the right time in a **cost effective** way. For us to do that there has to be change. Our priority has to be to improve the quality of patient experience while making efficiencies and better use of our resources and we need to be more integrated to do that."

Looking at the figures:

- Ambulance services account for about 1.5% of the total NHS budget
- The LAS received an extra £14.8m from Commissioners this year (to be spent over 2 years) in order to recruit more frontline staff.
- £33 - the annual cost per Londoner for an ambulance service

Mark Docherty says: "When you think you spend £95 a year for breakdown cover for your car, to get your ambulance service for a third of that is very good value."

Questions? If you have any commissioning queries, please contact LAS Commissioning Manager, Naura Carneiro de Melo at naura.carneirodemelo@lond-amb.nhs.uk



Mark Docherty



Dr Agnelo Fernandes



Naura Carneiro de Melo



Visit our website
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www.londonambulance.nhs.uk

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Please send enquiries to:
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FREE
An evening with us

LAS heart care event
Guy's Hospital, SE1 9RT
10 Oct, 17:30—19:30

Join us at a free event to find out more about how we care for cardiac patients, and hear from a cardiac arrest survivor and the person who helped save their life after calling 999.

To book a place, please visit our website and submit your details:

<http://tinyurl.com/qx64uf7>

