

Analysis of Interventions Afforded to Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) Patients in Rural NSW: Is There a Case for Upskilling Rural Paramedics?

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THE INEQUITY

Rural OHCA patients in NSW have reduced access to life-saving interventions due to a lack of specialist Intensive Care Paramedics (ICPs) with an advanced skill set.

Why is this Important?

The incidence of OHCA in rural and regional areas is higher than that in metropolitan areas of NSW (1).

Far West and Orana region present with the highest incidence of OHCA and yet a decreased distribution of paramedic specialists (1).

The study surrounds OHCA interventions rarely afforded to patients in rural NSW:

- Intravenous adrenaline (IVad) for paediatric patients.
- Intravenous amiodarone (IVam) (all ages).
- Intraosseous access (IO).

RESEARCH METHODS

A retrospective Electronic Medical Record audit, utilising data from NSW Ambulance in the period of 2015-2020.

- Compare rates and outcomes of IVad, IVam and IO use in OHCA between metropolitan and rural areas.

THE SOLUTION

An increase in scope of practice for rural paramedics to bridge the gap in OHCA care between rural and metropolitan patients.

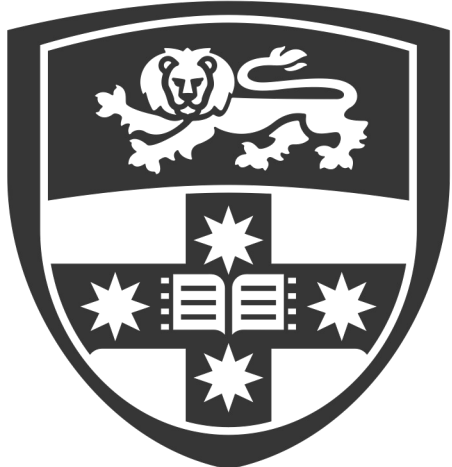
Expected Outcome

A change to NSW Ambulance protocols, allowing qualified paramedics to work under an advanced skillset for OHCA in a rural setting, where it is so desperately needed.

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