The Comprehensive Advanced Life Support Program in Oklahoma

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The CALS Program presented two cycles of training in Oklahoma in 2013. The Oklahoma Comprehensive Advanced Life Support Program (OCALS) was held in Lawton in July and in Tulsa in August. The Oklahoma Office of Rural Health was able to present this groundbreaking program through the funding provided by the Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant. The grant is administered through the Health Resources Service Administration. The CALS training was first held in Oklahoma in June of 2010.

The first five installments of CALS training have involved 86 emergency responders and emergency room personnel. Local community leaders and media outlets were informed and actively participated in the event. The following are the goals of the CALS Program;

To Improve Patient Care by:

1. Presenting an evidence-based educational experience in advanced life support that encompasses all critical areas of emergency care
2. To develop a team approach to patient management
3. Provide information and practice in a variety of instructional formats to allow for self-directed learning and to provide a balance of cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills
4. To serve as information resource and rapid retrieval system with the use of algorithms and treatment plans.
5. To provide a means for updating and maintaining knowledge and skills of advance life support providers
6. To provide rural facilities with a list of critical equipment and resources of obtaining the latest equipment.

The Stated Objectives of the CALS Program:
1. Demonstrate the ability to problem-solve a variety of clinical situations
2. Identify key threats and demonstrate therapeutic interventions.
3. Discuss roles of each team member involved in patient evaluation and treatment.
4. Perform skills consistent with the provider’s role on the advanced life support team.

The following are examples of the individual cycles of training presented during course instruction;

DAY ONE INSTRUCTION:
A. Universal approach to Seriously Injured Patients
B. The Emergency Airway
C. Rapid Sequence Intubation
D. Pediatric Airway
E. Resuscitation Skills
F. Pediatric Medical
G. Equipment/ I.V. Access and Ultrasound
H. Adult Trauma
I. Medical Neurological Resuscitation
J. Trauma Neurological Resuscitation
K. X-Ray Interpretation
L. ECG review

DAY TWO INSTRUCTION:

A. OB Lecture Cycle
B. Skills Practice- OB Cycle
C. Neonatal Skills-Practice
D. Cardiac Resuscitation Rotations
E. Tachycardia/ V Fib Training
F. Neonatal Resuscitation Skills
G. Adult Medical Cycle
H. Environmental Emergencies
I. Pediatric Trauma Scenarios
J. Course Test and Evacuations
K. Debriefing Sessions

The CALS Program is nationally recognized in the training of emergency responders who may be in situations where limited tools are at hand to preserve life. The program has been responsible for the training of United States Embassy staffs throughout the world. The latest major training for these personnel was held in Bangkok Thailand, and Johannesburg South Africa.

Dr. Michael Wilcox served as the team leader at both cycles of training this year. The CALS Program provides intensive hands on training for emergency medical care. Participants are placed into positions of responsibility which enhances the team concept. Classes were divided into small training group cores with two instructors providing direction to six students to eight students. They are then given intense health driven emergency scenarios and respond to these situations under CALS teamwork conditions.
During the past two cycles in Oklahoma, the program has been provided for MDs; DOs; RNs; PAs; and EMTs. This represents the training of 49 emergency room candidates in advanced life support for saving the lives of our rural citizens in 2013.

The Oklahoma Flex Program was able to engage sixteen rural hospitals and six rural emergency medical systems during the 2013 fiscal year in the CALS Program. Several new partners have also stepped up to provide support including the Oklahoma Northwest Area Health Education Centers, The Southwest Area Health Education Centers, Cameron University, and the Chickasaw and Creek Nations.

The CALS team leader expressed his impression of the Oklahoma Health Care Providers; they are truly bright and engaged, and eager to use the CALS principles to provide an enhanced level of emergency care in the home communities. I found many of them to be terrific candidates to become CALS instructors and look forward to assisting them in the years ahead. We are looking forward to continuing this valuable training in 2014.