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United States – Smart Tech

Verified Responder: Several US Communities

BRIEF SUMMARY

Numerous smart phone apps are now available to alert laypersons of a nearby OHCA. ILCOR and AHA have each recognized that these apps present important opportunities to improve bystander CPR rates as well as decrease the time to defibrillation by AED application prior to the arrival of professional responders. To date however, this strategy has largely been restricted to cardiac arrests that occur during awake hours and in public settings. As a consequence, only about 10% of cardiac arrests can potentially benefit from this innovative approach. GoodSAM, HeartRunner, and other programs in Europe and Asia are evaluating notifications for both public and private locations, greatly increasing the potential benefit.

The Verified Responder program is a novel strategy and the first in the United States that enlists off-duty professional responders who volunteer to respond to proximal cardiac arrests via smart phone app (PulsePoint platform), potentially during all hours and to both public and private settings. Each Verified Responder will also be equipped with a dedicated AED. This strategy provides an expanded application of a promising approach that can potentially overcome the current limitations due to OHCA location. The professional qualifications provide the requisite criterion to empower this volunteer group to potentially respond to provide CPR and defibrillation to all cardiac arrests in the community.

GOAL

1. **Measure level of interest** (and potential barriers) from health care and public safety professionals for this program in the Washington State where a program such as this is not available. Initial interest was measured through a targeted survey of professional responders and public safety professionals and volunteers where it was found that 83.3% of respondents were interested in volunteering for such a program. Of those interested, 89.3% would respond to both public and private locations.
2. **Implement program in communities** - Five high performing communities have implemented the Verified Responder program in 2017. A total of 550 volunteers signed up and were assigned dedicated AEDs, covering a population of over 1.2 million people and roughly 700 square miles.
3. **Evaluate program** - Evaluation is ongoing. Data from cardiac arrest events, cardiac arrest registries, PulsePoint, and surveys post activation is currently being collected for evaluation.

