

**Notification of News Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Montgomery Quality Assurance Program Recognized by Academy of Medicine**

(*MONTGOMERY, Ohio*) – The Academy of Medicine has a big binder that lists protocols for just about every emergency situation, and every Paramedic on the ambulance knows them. What didn't exist, until now, was an electronic system for rating how the emergency situation was documented.

In 1993, Bob Hasselfeld & Tom Wolf with the City of Montgomery Fire Department saw the need for an electronic report that provides another piece of information to add to the handwritten report describing how the run was documented. Bob created this report in DOS (you remember DOS?). In 2000, Dane Williams, a Paramedic with the Montgomery Fire Department, and Tom Wolf, the Assistant Fire Chief, revised the program in a more user-friendly format.

Here's how it works. After each run, a handwritten form is turned in. Patient information and the type of emergency (chest pain, eye injury, etc) are entered into the computer. A list of numerically weighted yes/no questions about the protocols for the emergency appears and must be answered. Each question has a numerical rating, so the program can determine if the appropriate documentation was performed on each run. The computer data is given to Assistant Fire Chief Wolf, so he can review it, along with the handwritten form, and determine if any critical documentation was missed and if follow up with the responding paramedic is needed. The rating is used to provide positive feedback, too. The system is updated each time the protocols are changed by the Academy of Medicine.

The program has been so well received that the Academy of Medicine requested the City present the program at a pre-hospital care committee meeting in July, so other departments can benefit from the program. The Montgomery Fire Department willingly, and for free, provides the program to any department that requests it.

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