



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Heidi Charalambous
(864) 512-3765

heidi.charalambous@anmedhealth.org

New equipment improves response to sudden cardiac arrest

(Aug. 28, 2012 – Anderson, S.C.) – AnMed Health LifeFlight is now equipped with a LUCAS Chest Compression System, allowing flight nurses and paramedics to respond even more efficiently to sudden cardiac arrest.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when electrical impulses in the heart become rapid or chaotic, causing the heart to suddenly stop beating. Cardiac arrest can be reversed if CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) is performed or a defibrillator is used to shock the heart and restore a normal heart rhythm within a few minutes. Effective CPR can double or triple a victim's chance of survival, according to the American Heart Association.

The LUCAS Chest Compression System is a pneumatic chest compression tool that delivers uninterrupted, steady chest compressions. CPR with just chest compressions, also known as hands-only CPR, has been proven to be as effective as CPR with breaths in treating adult cardiac arrest victims. The compressions create blood flow, which delivers oxygen to the brain and prepares the heart for successful defibrillation.

The LUCAS is lightweight, comes in a backpack, and can be applied quickly, interrupting manual compressions for less than 20 seconds. And while the LUCAS handles the CPR, LifeFlight's nurses and paramedics can engage in additional lifesaving efforts.

“All LifeFlight personnel are certified in CPR. What the LUCAS does is give us a third set of hands. It allows our patients to receive consistent chest compressions while en route to the hospital and improves patients' chances for a successful outcome,” said Paul Hubbard, LifeFlight director.

Because AnMed Health Medical Center is the closest PCI Center for many Upstate and northeast Georgia residents, the helicopter often transports heart patients for care. For example, LifeFlight could respond to a sudden cardiac arrest if:

- ground EMS crews were more than 20 minutes away and didn't have an automatic chest compression device available
- a patient who appears to be having a heart attack and goes into cardiac arrest. LifeFlight can take these patients straight to the heart catheterization lab at AnMed Health.

To learn more about the LUCAS Chest Compression System, go to <http://www.physio-control.com/LUCAS>. To learn more about AnMed Health LifeFlight, visit www.anmedhealth.org/lifeflight.

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