



# CARES Data Sharing User Guide

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## **What is CARES?**

In 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine. CARES was developed to help communities determine standard outcome measures for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA), by linking the three sources of information that define the continuum of emergency cardiac care: 911 dispatch centers, emergency medical services (EMS) providers, and receiving hospitals. Participating EMS systems can compare their performance to de-identified aggregate statistics, allowing for longitudinal benchmarking capability at the local, regional, and national level.

CARES began data collection in Atlanta in 2005. The program has since expanded to include 23 state-based registries (Alaska, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, and Washington) with more than 70 community sites in 19 additional states, representing a catchment area of approximately 130 million people or 40% of the US population. More than 1,700 EMS agencies and over 2,100 hospitals participate nationwide.

## **Who owns CARES data?**

CARES is a secure and confidential data management system that allows EMS agencies and hospitals to monitor their performance and compare themselves against state and national benchmarks. Local EMS agencies and hospitals have ownership of their own data. CARES is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of EMS agency and hospital data; therefore, all data is shared in a de-identified, aggregate format. Fields that could identify a patient, EMS agency, or hospital are removed from research datasets, and publications shall not separately identify participating EMS agencies, hospitals, or their contributed data. Data sharing applications and agreements are proposal-specific and limited to each individual project.

## **What is a CARES case?**

EMS agencies are instructed to include all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCAs) of non-traumatic etiology where the patient: 1) receives resuscitative efforts from First Responders or EMS, or 2) is defibrillated prior to EMS arrival. CARES includes OHCA patients of all ages.

The following are not considered CARES cases: 1) Arrest occurring during an inter-facility transfer, 2) Resuscitative efforts not initiated or terminated due to rigor, lividity, decomposition, injuries incompatible with life, Do Not Resuscitate directive, and/or obvious signs of death.

## **How is CARES data collected?**

The CARES software (<https://mycares.net>), developed and maintained by Physio-Control, Inc., links three sources to describe each OHCA event: 1) 911 call center data, 2) EMS data, and 3) hospital data. The registry evaluates OHCA events of non-traumatic etiology that involve persons who received resuscitative efforts, including CPR and/or defibrillation. EMS initiates a CARES record and can submit data in two ways: using a data-entry form on the CARES website, or via upload from an agency's electronic patient-care record (ePCR) system. When the patient survives to the hospital with ongoing resuscitation, CARES requests outcome data from the receiving facility.

## **What kind of data does CARES collect?**

Data collection within CARES is based on the Utstein-style definitions – a standardized template of uniform reporting guidelines for clinical variables and patient outcomes that was developed by international resuscitation experts<sup>1</sup>.

From 2005-2012, only patients with a presumed cardiac etiology were included in CARES. However, in alignment with the Utstein guidelines and ILCOR recommendation, the registry's inclusion criteria were modified in January 2013 to include all patients with non-traumatic OHCA. As such, data analysis is restricted to the 2013-2018 dataset, which includes more than 350,000 records.

Mandatory data elements collected from EMS providers include demographics (i.e. name, age, date of birth, incident address, sex, and race/ethnicity), arrest-specific data (i.e. location type of arrest, witness status, and presumed etiology), and resuscitation-specific data (i.e. information regarding CPR initiation and/or AED application, defibrillation, initial arrest rhythm, return of spontaneous circulation [ROSC], field hypothermia, and pre-hospital survival status).

EMS providers are also able to enter a number of optional elements, which further detail arrest interventions (i.e. usage of mechanical CPR device, ITD, 12 Lead, automated CPR feedback device, and advanced airway; administration of drugs; and diagnosis of STEMI).

The CARES form also includes a number of optional time elements, including estimated time of arrest, defibrillatory shock, and initial CPR. Supplemental data elements collected from the 911 call centers include the time that each 911 call was received, the time of dispatch for both first responder and EMS providers, and arrival time at the scene.

Data elements collected from receiving hospitals include emergency department outcome, provision of therapeutic hypothermia, hospital outcome, discharge location, and neurological outcome at discharge (using the Cerebral Performance Categories [CPC] Scale). Receiving facilities may also complete optional elements outlining hospital procedures, including coronary angiography, CABG, and stent or ICD placement.

The CARES dataset is geocoded on an annual basis, using Centrus Desktop Geocoder, and linked to a number of census-tract level variables including: median household income, median age, race/ethnicity, unemployment rate, poverty status, urbanicity, and educational attainment.

The CARES forms (required elements only, and required and supplemental elements) are located in Appendix A.

## **How can I access CARES data?**

Inquiries about the national dataset should be directed to Rabab Al-Araji ([ralaraj@emory.edu](mailto:ralaraj@emory.edu)), CARES Epidemiologist. Inquires about state-specific projects should be directed to the respective CARES State Coordinator (contact information: <https://mycares.net/sitepages/contactus.jsp>).

Researchers who want to analyze state or national aggregate data must submit a research proposal to the CARES Data Sharing Committee. Each unique project requires a separate proposal submission. The CARES Data Sharing Application is located in Appendix B. Once completed, the application will be distributed to committee members for review. Feedback will be provided within four weeks of submission.

The goals of the national and state Data Sharing Committees are as follows:

- To promote accurate and scientifically sound presentations and papers from the CARES program.

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<sup>1</sup> *Resuscitation*. 2015 Nov;96:328-40.

- To oversee the use of the data belonging to EMS agencies and hospitals and protect agency and hospital confidentiality.
- To ensure that all involved parties have consented to the use of their data, or, if the research or analysis is de-identified, cumulative data, that it is approved by a committee.
- To ensure participation and support from all stakeholders.
- To avoid duplication of effort and data mining.

The committee evaluates the proposal for scientific merit and makes recommendations. If there are no concerns or issues raised, the researcher will be informed that their proposal has been approved. Any comments or suggestions from the committee will be shared with the lead investigator.

### **How much does CARES data cost?**

CARES charges 5% of the total project award amount when the research or study is funded from sources external to the researcher's institution. However, there is no charge to access the CARES National Dataset if the research or study is funded from internal sources at the researcher's institution. Examples of external funding sources include but are not limited to:

- The National Institutes of Health
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- American Heart Association
- Industry

An overview and FAQ document can be found on the National Dataset Fee FAQ Document (Appendix F).

### **My project has been approved. What are the next steps?**

An overview of the required steps can be found in the Data Sharing Checklist (Appendix C).

#### **Step 1: Non-Disclosure Agreement & IRB approval**

Prior to receipt of the CARES dataset, the lead researcher must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement for Information Recipients stating they will not share the dataset or expand the analysis beyond the scope of the proposal. The signed NDA should be sent to the CARES Data Sharing Coordinator for final execution by Emory University. A fully executed copy will be returned once available.

Lead authors must obtain IRB approval from their institutions within 3 months of receiving the dataset for analysis. A copy of the IRB approval must be shared with the CARES Data Sharing Coordinator.

#### **Step 2: Dataset review webinar**

After approval of the proposal by the Data Sharing Committee, the CARES Data Sharing Coordinator will provide the requested de-identified dataset specific to the study proposal. The Data Sharing Coordinator will schedule a webinar with the study investigators and affiliated statistical staff to review the dataset and answer questions about interpretation of the CARES elements.

### **I'm ready to start my data analysis. What should I consider?**

Data element definitions and coding considerations (including information about location type, bystander CPR, PAD, and patient outcome) are found in Appendix D. Additional information can be found in the CARES Data Dictionary (<https://mycares.net/sitepages/dataelements.jsp>).

Details regarding the dataset structure and relationships between CARES questions are found in Appendix E.

### **Step 3: Send descriptive data tables for review prior to further analysis**

Descriptive data tables should be shared with the CARES Data Sharing Coordinator for review prior to further analysis. This will allow for feedback regarding inclusion/exclusion criteria, data element interpretation, and coding in advance of more sophisticated analyses.

### **Authorship**

Authors who participate in the writing of a manuscript should do so in accordance with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines (JAMA 1997; 277(11): 927-934).

All abstracts/manuscripts written using CARES data will use the following format to list authorship:

- Individual authors will be listed first.
- All abstracts/manuscripts should include the words “and the CARES Surveillance Group” in the authorship line following the individual authors (e.g. Schwamm L, George M, Matters M, and the CARES Surveillance Group).

The "Acknowledgement" section of all manuscripts should reference the CARES participating sites by providing the web link <https://mycares.net/sitepages/map.jsp>.

### **Abstracts**

Abstract or presentation proposals must be followed up with a submission within *three months* of the date that the dataset is provided.

Abstracts for presentations at scientific meetings should be sent to the Data Sharing Committee for approval prior to submission. Committee members will review the abstract to determine whether it is accurate and scientifically sound. The committee will respond to the investigators within *two weeks* of submission for abstracts. Under very limited circumstances, a researcher may call for an expedited review of an abstract. Requests for an expedited review should be submitted to the committee with justification for the need to expedite the review. Failure of the researcher to complete the work in a timely manner and/or failure to determine deadlines prior to beginning the project DOES NOT justify expedited review.

A copy of accepted abstracts should be sent to the CARES Data Sharing Coordinator for the record.

### **Manuscripts**

Manuscripts must be submitted for review within *nine months* of the date that the dataset is provided.

Draft manuscripts should be sent to the Data Sharing Committee for approval prior to journal submission. Committee members will review the manuscript to determine whether it is accurate and scientifically sound. The committee will respond to the investigators within *four weeks* of submission for manuscripts. Under very limited circumstances, a researcher may call for an expedited review. Requests for an expedited review should be submitted to the committee with justification for the need to expedite the review. Failure of the researcher to complete the work in a timely manner and/or failure to determine deadlines prior to beginning the project DOES NOT justify expedited review.

The CARES Data Sharing Coordinator should be notified with each journal submission and peer review, in order to track projects.

A copy of accepted publications should be sent to the CARES Data Sharing Coordinator for the record.

## Appendix A: CARES Forms

### CARES Required Elements:

<b>Part A - Demographic Information</b>			
<b>1 - Street Address (Where Arrest Occurred)</b>			
<b>2 - City</b>		<b>3 - State</b>	<b>4a - Zip Code</b>
<b>4b - County</b>			
<b>5 - First Name</b>		<b>6 - Last Name</b>	
<b>7 - Age</b>	<b>9 - Date of Birth</b>	<b>10 - Gender</b>	<b>11 - Race/Ethnicity</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> American-Indian/Alaska <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<b>Part B - Run Information</b>			
<b>14 - Date of Arrest</b>		<b>15 - Incident #</b>	
<b>First Responding Agency</b>			
<b>16 - Fire/First Responder</b>		<b>17 - Destination Hospital</b>	
<b>Part C: Arrest Information</b>			
<b>18 - Location Type</b>	<b>19 - Arrest Witnessed</b>	<b>20 - Arrest After Arrival of 911 Responder</b>	<b>21 - Presumed Cardiac Arrest Etiology</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Home/Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Commercial Bldg <input type="checkbox"/> Street/Hwy <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Specify	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Place of Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Place <input type="checkbox"/> Transport Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Witnessed Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> Unwitnessed Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Presumed Cardiac Etiology <input type="checkbox"/> Trauma <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory/Asphyxia <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning/Submersion <input type="checkbox"/> Electrocutation <input type="checkbox"/> Exsanguination/Hemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Overdose <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Resuscitation Information</b>			
<b>22 - Resuscitation attempted by 911 Responder (or AED shock given prior to EMS arrival)</b>	<b>23 - Who Initiated CPR</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person Family Member <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person Medical Provider <input type="checkbox"/> First Responder (non-EMS) <input type="checkbox"/> Responding EMS Personnel		
<b>26 - Was an AED applied prior to EMS arrival</b>	<b>27 - Who First Applied the AED</b>	<b>28 - Who First Defibrillated the Patient</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, w ith defibrillation <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, w ithout defibrillation <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person Family Member <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person Medical Provider <input type="checkbox"/> First Responder (non-EMS) If yes, was it applied by Police: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person Family Member <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Person Medical Provider <input type="checkbox"/> First Responder (non-EMS) If yes, did the Police defibrillate the patient: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Responding EMS Personnel	
<b>First Cardiac Arrest Rhythm of Patient and ROSC Information</b>			
<b>30 - First Arrest Rhythm of Patient</b>	<b>31 - Sustained ROSC (20 consecutive minutes) or present at end of EMS care</b>	<b>32 - Was hypothermia care provided in the field</b>	<b>33 - End of Event</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ventricular Fibrillation <input type="checkbox"/> Ventricular Tachycardia <input type="checkbox"/> Asystole <input type="checkbox"/> Idioventricular/PEA <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Shockable Rhythm <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Unshockable Rhythm	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but pulseless at end of EMS care (or ED arrival) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, pulse at end of EMS care (or ED arrival) <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Pronounced in the Field <input type="checkbox"/> Pronounced in the ED <input type="checkbox"/> Effort ceased due to DNR <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Resuscitation in ED
<b>Part E: Hospital Section</b>			
<b>46 - ER Outcome</b>	<b>48 - Hospital Outcome</b>	<b>49 - Discharge from the Hospital</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Resuscitation terminated in ED <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted to hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Transferred to another acute care facility from the ED	<input type="checkbox"/> Died in the hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Discharged alive <input type="checkbox"/> Patient made DNR If yes, choose one of the following ing: <input type="checkbox"/> Died in the hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Discharged alive <input type="checkbox"/> Transferred to another acute care hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet determined <input type="checkbox"/> Transferred to another acute care hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet determined	<input type="checkbox"/> Home/Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Facility/Hospice	
<b>47 - Was hypothermia care initiated or continued in the hospital</b>	<b>50 - Neurological Outcome At Discharge From Hospital</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Good Cerebral Performance (CPC 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Cerebral Disability (CPC 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Cerebral Disability (CPC 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Coma, Vegetative State (CPC 4)		

### CARES Required & Supplemental Elements:

**Part A: Demographic Information**

1 - Street Address (Where Arrest Occurred)

2 - City 3 - State 4a - Zip Code 4b - County

5 - First Name 6 - Last Name

7 - Age 9 - Date of Birth 10 - Gender 11 - Race/Ethnicity

12 - Medical history

**Part B: Run Information**

14 - Date of Arrest 15 - Incident #

16 - Fire/First Responder 17 - Destination Hospital

**Part C: Arrest Information**

18 - Location Type 19 - Arrest Witnessed 20 - Arrest After Arrival of 911 Responder 21 - Presumed Cardiac Arrest Etiology

**Resuscitation Information**

22 - Resuscitation attempted by 911 Responder (or AED shock given prior to EMS arrival)

23 - Who Initiated CPR 24 - Type of Bystander CPR Provided

25 - Were Dispatcher CPR instructions provided

26 - Was an AED applied prior to EMS arrival 27 - Who First Applied the AED

28 - Who First Defibrillated the Patient

29 - Did 911 Responder perform CPR

**First Cardiac Arrest Rhythm of Patient and ROSC Information**

30 - First Arrest Rhythm of Patient 31 - Sustained ROSC (20 consecutive minutes) or present at end of EMS care 32 - Was hypothermia care provided in the field

33 - End of Event 34 - When did ROSC first occur

35 - Estimated time of arrest 36 - Time of 1st defibrillatory shock 37 - Time of 1st CPR

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**Part D: EMS Interventions (check all that apply)**

38 - Mechanical CPR device used: 39 - Automated CPR feedback device used:

40 - Advanced airway successfully placed in the field:

41 - ITD used:

42 - Were drugs administered:

43 - Vascular access:

44 - 12 Lead:

**Part E: Hospital Section**

46 - ER Outcome 48 - Hospital Outcome 49 - Discharge from the Hospital

47 - Was hypothermia care initiated or continued in the hospital?

50 - Neurological Outcome At Discharge From Hospital

**Hospital procedures**

47a - Why was hypothermia care not initiated or continued in the hospital?

51 - Was the final diagnosis acute myocardial infarction?

52 - Coronary Angiography Performed:

**Response and Treatment Times**

53 - Was a cardiac stent placed? 54 - CABG performed? 55 - Was an ICD placed and/or scheduled?

56 - No First Responder dispatched

57 - Time call received at dispatch center

58 - Time First Responder dispatched

59 - Time of First Responder en route

62 - Time First Responder arrived at scene

60 - Time Ambulance dispatched

61 - Time for Ambulance en route

63 - Time Ambulance arrived at scene

64 - Time EMS arrived at patient side

65 - Time Ambulance left scene

66 - Time Ambulance arrived at ED

**General Comments**



## **Appendix B: CARES Data Sharing Proposal Form**

Thank you for your interest in the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). To initiate a research project utilizing CARES data, please complete the application below and submit electronically to Rabab Al-Araji at [ralaraj@emory.edu](mailto:ralaraj@emory.edu).

The proposal will be reviewed by the CARES Data Sharing Committee within 4 weeks to determine that it is scientifically sound and that the scope of the analysis is reasonable. If the committee approves the proposal:

- CARES staff will conduct a webinar to review the data elements and answer questions prior to providing the researcher with the de-identified dataset.
- The researcher must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement stating they will not share the dataset or expand the analysis beyond the scope of the proposal.
- Abstracts for presentations at scientific meetings should be submitted within 3 months of receipt of the dataset. Abstracts must be sent to the CARES Data Sharing Committee for review 2 weeks in advance of submission.
- Publication manuscripts should be submitted within 9 months of receipt of the dataset. Manuscript drafts must be sent to the CARES Data Sharing Committee for review 4 weeks in advance of submission.

More detailed information about the CARES Data Sharing Policy and Guidelines can be found at: <https://mycares.net/sitepages/datashare.jsp>.

### **Primary Contact Information**

**Name:**

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**Title:**

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**Hospital/University/Company:**

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**Street Address:**

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**City, State, Zip:**

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**Phone:**

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**Email:**

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<b>Project name/Working title:</b>
<b>Lead investigator:</b>
<b>Target Conference:</b>
<b>Target Journal:</b>

**A) Funding**

<b>Is this project funded?</b> If yes, please review the CARES National Dataset Fee Document for more information (Appendix F).
<b>If so, is the funding internal to your institution or externally funded?</b>
<b>If externally funded, what entity or organization is the source of the funding?</b>
<b>What is the total expected award amount?</b>
<b>Please include any other detail(s) that you feel is relevant:</b>

**B) Study Investigators**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Email (required)</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

**C) Main objective, aim, or hypothesis**

**D) Background/Rationale**

**E) Methods**

<b>Specific outcome(s) of interest:</b>
<b>Explanatory variables of interest:</b>

**Study population (inclusion/exclusion criteria):**

**Analysis plan (*with power calculations and plans for obtaining statistical/epidemiological expertise, if relevant*):**

**F) Relevant references**

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**FOR USE BY CARES:**

Date submitted:  CARES DSC deadline:  Date approved:	<b>DSC Feedback/Comments:</b>
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## **Appendix C: Data Sharing Checklist**

- Sign CARES Non-Disclosure Agreement for Information Recipients
  
- Complete dataset review webinar with CARES Data Sharing Coordinator
  
- Submit IRB approval letter to CARES Data Sharing Coordinator within 3 months of receipt of dataset
  
- Send descriptive data tables to CARES Data Sharing Coordinator for review prior to further analysis
  
- Submit **abstracts** for presentations at scientific meetings within **3 months** of receipt of dataset
  - Send abstract to CARES for committee review 2 weeks in advance of submission
  - Include "and the CARES Surveillance Group" in the authorship line following the individual authors
  - Include CARES logo on poster
  
- Submit **publication** manuscripts within **9 months** of receipt of dataset
  - Send manuscript to CARES for committee review 4 weeks in advance of submission
  - Include "and the CARES Surveillance Group" in the authorship line following the individual authors
  - In Acknowledgements section, reference the CARES participating sites by providing the web link: <https://mycares.net/sitepages/map.jsp>.
  - Send to CARES for re-review if the manuscript is revised based on peer review process
  
- Send a copy of accepted abstract or manuscript to CARES Data Sharing Coordinator

## **Appendix D: Data Element Definitions**

### **CARES Case Definition:**

A CARES case is a non-traumatic out-of-hospital cardiac arrest event where resuscitation is attempted by a 911 responder (CPR and/or defibrillation). This includes patients that received an AED shock by a bystander prior to the arrival of 911 responders.

### **Location Type:**

Type of location where the patient arrested. CARES location types are generally grouped into the following:

- Home/Residence: Home/Residence
- Nursing Home or Healthcare Facility: Nursing Home; Healthcare Facility
- Public: Public/Commercial Building; Street/Highway; Place of Recreation; Industrial Place; Transport Center; Other

### **Pediatric age categories:**

When analyzing the pediatric CARES dataset, we recommend utilizing the following age categories:

<1 year (infants), 1-5 years (toddlers), 6-12 years (school age), and 13-18 years (adolescents).

For some studies, there may only be a small number of subjects in each group. In these cases, groups may be combined. However, infants (<1 year) should always be analyzed as a unique subgroup.

**Bystander** - A lay person, lay person family member, or lay person medical provider.

**First Responder** – Personnel who respond to the medical emergency in an official capacity as part of an organized medical response team but are not the designated transporter of the patient to the hospital.

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** - Personnel who respond to the medical emergency in an official capacity (i.e. respond to the 911 call) as part of an organized medical response team and are the designated transporter of the patient to the hospital.

**Bystander CPR** – Cardiopulmonary resuscitation initiated by a lay person, lay person family member, or lay person medical provider.

### **Bystander CPR Rate:**

We recommend excluding 911 Responder witnessed events as well as those that occurred in a nursing home/healthcare setting from bystander CPR rate calculations, as these are scenarios where a trained medical professional would most likely be performing CPR.

*Exclude* “Arrest Witness Status = 911 Responder Witnessed” AND “Location Type = Nursing Home; Healthcare Facility” from numerator and denominator.

*Numerator:* Who Initiated CPR = lay person, lay person family member, or lay person medical provider

**AED Application:**

“Was an AED applied prior to EMS arrival” denotes AED application by a lay person or First Responder prior to the arrival of EMS, regardless of whether defibrillation occurred. “Yes, with defibrillation”, and “Yes, without defibrillation” are both affirmative responses to this question.

**PAD Rate:**

When the outcome of interest is the use of an AED by a bystander, we recommend excluding 911 Responder witnessed events as well as those that occurred in a healthcare facility or nursing home, as these are scenarios where a trained medical professional would most likely be applying an AED or monitor. AEDs are rarely used during cardiac arrests occurring in residential locations; therefore, we recommend excluding arrests that occurred in a non-public location and evaluating the public access defibrillation (PAD) rate.

*Exclude* “Arrest Witness Status = 911 Responder Witnessed” AND “Location Type = Nursing Home; Healthcare Facility; Home/Residence” from numerator and denominator.

*Numerator:* Who first applied the AED = lay person, lay person family member, or lay person medical provider

**Who first defibrillated the patient?** – Used to determine the frequency of defibrillatory shocks among bystanders and responders. “Not Applicable” is selected when defibrillation did not occur.

**First Arrest Rhythm** - First cardiac rhythm present when a monitor/defibrillator or AED is attached to a patient.

**Sustained ROSC** - Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) is defined as the restoration of a palpable pulse or a measurable blood pressure. Sustained ROSC is deemed to have occurred when chest compressions are not required for 20 consecutive minutes and signs of circulation persist. “Yes”, “Yes, but pulseless at end of EMS care”, and “Yes, pulse at end of EMS care” are all affirmative responses to this question.

**Survived to hospital admission** - Includes patients for whom ER Outcome = Admitted to hospital.

**Survived to hospital discharge** - Includes patients for whom Hospital Outcome = Discharged Alive or Patient Made DNR = Discharged Alive.

**Good Cerebral Performance** – CPC 1; Patient is conscious, alert, able to work and lead a normal life.

**Moderate Cerebral Performance** – CPC 2; Patients is conscious and able to function independently (dress, travel, prepare food), but may have hemiplegia, seizures, or permanent memory or mental changes.

**Utstein Patients** - Those who had a bystander witnessed arrest and presented in a shockable rhythm. To view CARES Utstein patients, select the following:

- Arrest Witness Status = Bystander Witnessed
- First Rhythm Type = Shockable

**Utstein Bystander Survival** - Survival among patients whose cardiac arrest was witnessed by a bystander, were in a shockable rhythm, and received some bystander intervention (CPR and/or AED application).



## Appendix E: CARES Database Structure

The table below includes details about the CARES dataset structure, including the data elements and responses, and relationships between CARES questions. Light grey shading indicates the supplemental/optional CARES data elements.

Header	Title on CARES Form	Responses	Description/Comments
Run ID	N/A		Unique record identifier generated by CARES software.
EMS Agency ID	N/A		Unique EMS agency identifier generated by CARES. Included in CARES dataset when needed for analysis.
Date of Arrest	Date of Arrest		
Age (Years)	Age/Age Modifier		Patient age, in years. Days and months have been converted accordingly.
Gender	Gender	Male Female	
Race/Ethnicity	Race/Ethnicity	American-Indian/Alaskan Asian Black/African American Hispanic/Latino Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander White Unknown	Race is "Unknown" for approximately 25% of CARES cases, due to the fact that a number of communities do not collect this information.
Medical History	Medical History	No Unknown Cancer Diabetes Heart Disease Hyperlipidemia Hypertension Renal Disease Respiratory Disease Stroke Other	
Destination Hospital ID	N/A		Unique hospital identifier generated by CARES. Included in CARES dataset when needed for analysis.
Location Type	Location Type	Home/Residence Public/Commercial Building Street/Hwy Nursing Home Healthcare Facility Place of Recreation Industrial Place Transport Center Other	
Arrest Witness Status	Arrest Witnessed/Arrest After Arrival of 911 Responder	Unwitnessed Bystander Witnessed 911 Responder Witnessed	This variable maps responses from "Arrest Witnessed" and "Arrest After Arrival of 911 Responder".
Presumed Cardiac Arrest Etiology	Presumed Cardiac Arrest Etiology	Presumed Cardiac Etiology Trauma Respiratory Drowning Electrocution Drug Overdose Exsanguination/Hemorrhage Other	From 2005-2012, CARES only required arrests of presumed cardiac etiology to be entered. In January 2013, our case definition expanded to include all non-traumatic worked arrests. Analyses using CARES data MUST include all non-traumatic etiologies.  Drug Overdose and Exsanguination/Hemorrhage are new answer choices as of January 2017. Prior to this, these etiologies were coded as Other.

Header	Title on CARES Form	Responses	Description/Comments
Resuscitation Attempted	Resuscitation Attempted by 911 Responder (or AED shock given prior to EMS arrival)	Yes No	CARES requires that cardiac arrest events where resuscitation was attempted be entered into the registry. DOAs/unworked arrests are not CARES cases and are therefore removed from datasets.
Initiated CPR	Who Initiated CPR	Not Applicable Lay Person Lay Person Family Member Lay Person Medical Provider First Responder (non-EMS) Responding EMS Personnel	
Type of Bystander CPR Provided	Type of Bystander CPR Provided	Compressions and ventilations Compressions only Ventilations only	This field is applicable only if Initiated CPR = Lay Person, Lay Person Family Member, or Lay Person Medical Provider.
Dispatcher CPR instructions provided	Were Dispatcher CPR instructions provided?	Yes No Unknown	
Was an AED applied prior to EMS arrival	Was an AED applied prior to EMS arrival	Yes, with defibrillation Yes, without defibrillation No	
Who First Applied the AED	Who First Applied the AED	Lay Person Lay Person Family Member Lay Person Medical Provider First Responder	This field is applicable only if "Was an AED applied prior to EMS arrival" = "Yes with defibrillation" or "Yes without defibrillation".
Did police first apply the AED	If yes, was it applied by police?	Yes No	This field is applicable only if "Who First Applied the AED" = First Responder.
Who First Defibrillated the Patient	Who First Defibrillated the Patient	Not Applicable Lay Person Lay Person Family Member Lay Person Medical Provider First Responder (non EMS) Responding EMS Personnel	This question includes Not Applicable as a response, for cases where no shock was given. This question is not specific to AEDs, but applies to defibrillation with any device.
Did police first defibrillate the patient	If yes, did police defibrillate the patient?	Yes No	This field is applicable only if "Who First Defibrillated the Patient" = First Responder.
Did 911 Responder perform CPR	Did 911 Responder perform CPR	Yes No	
First Monitored Rhythm	First Arrest Rhythm of Patient	Ventricular Fibrillation Ventricular Tachycardia Asystole Idioventricular/PEA Unknown Shockable Rhythm Unknown Unshockable Rhythm	First cardiac rhythm present when a monitor/defibrillator or AED is attached to a patient. Unknown Shockable or Unknown Unshockable are included for situations where the device lacked recording ability.
First Rhythm Type	N/A	Shockable Non-Shockable	Categorizes First Monitored Rhythm as Shockable (VF, VT, Unknown Shockable) or Nonshockable (Asystole, Idioventricular/PEA, Unknown Unshockable).
Sustained ROSC	Sustained ROSC (20 consecutive minutes) or present at end of EMS care	Yes Yes, but pulseless at end of EMS care Yes, pulse at end of EMS care No	

Header	Title on CARES Form	Responses	Description/Comments
When did sustained ROSC first occur	When did sustained ROSC first occur	Never After Bystander CPR Only After Bystander defib shock After 911 Responder CPR only After 911 Responder defib shock After ALS Unknown	
Was hypothermia care provided in the field	Was hypothermia care provided in the field	Yes No	
Mechanical CPR device Used	Mechanical CPR device Used	Yes No	
Mechanical CPR device Used detail	If "Yes", please specify:	Load-Distributing Band (AutoPulse) Active Compression Decompression (LUCAS Device) Mechanical Piston Other	Applicable when Mechanical CPR device Used = Yes.
Automated CPR feedback device used	Automated CPR feedback device used	Yes No	
Advanced Airway successfully placed in the field	Advanced Airway successfully placed in the field	Yes No	
Advanced Airway detail	If "Yes", please specify:	Combitube King Airway LMA Oral/Nasal ET Other	Applicable when Advanced Airway successfully placed in the field = Yes.
ITD Used	ITD Used	Yes No	
ITD Used detail	If "Yes", please specify:	Bag valve mask Endotracheal tube Combitube King Airway LMA Oral/Nasal ET Other	Applicable when ITD Used = Yes.
Were drugs administered	Were drugs administered	Yes No	
Drugs administered detail	If "Yes", please specify:	Epinephrine Atropine Amiodarone Bicarbonate Dextrose Lidocaine Narcan Vasopressin Other	Applicable when Were drugs administered = Yes.
Vascular access	Vascular access	No IV IV IO	
12 Lead	12 Lead	Yes No	

Header	Title on CARES Form	Responses	Description/Comments
STEMI	STEMI	Yes No Unknown	
STEMI Location	If "Yes", select location:	Anterior Inferior	Applicable when STEMI = Yes.
End Of The Event	End Of The Event	Dead in Field Pronounced Dead in ED Effort Ceased due to DNR Ongoing Resuscitation in ED	CARES does not require that field DNRs be entered into the registry. DNRs are not CARES cases and are therefore removed from datasets.
Emergency Room Outcome	Emergency Room Outcome	Resuscitation terminated in ED Admitted to hospital Transferred to another acute care facility from the ED	This is the second data element which can indicate that the patient died in the ED (see "End of the Event"). If patient was admitted to the hospital, the following hospital questions (Hypothermia Care & Hospital Outcome) are applicable.
Survived to Hospital Admission	N/A	Yes No Missing	This data element indicates whether the patient survived to hospital admission, and maps responses from "End of the Event" and "ER Outcome".
Hospital Outcome	Hospital Outcome	Died in the hospital Discharged Alive Patient made DNR Transferred to another acute care hospital Not yet determined	If the patient died in the hospital, the record is complete. If they are "Discharged Alive" then the following hospital questions (Discharge from the Hospital and Neuro Outcome) are applicable.
Patient made DNR outcome	Patient made DNR outcome	Died in the hospital Discharged Alive Transferred to another acute care hospital Not yet determined	If "Hospital Outcome = Patient made DNR", then the hospital user is prompted to enter the final patient outcome from a drop-down menu.
Survived to Hospital Discharge	N/A	Yes No Missing	This data element indicates whether the patient survived to hospital discharge, and maps responses from "Survived to Hospital Admission", "Hospital Outcome", and "Patient made DNR Outcome".
Discharge From The Hospital	Discharge From The Hospital	Home/Residence Rehabilitation Facility Skilled Nursing Facility/Hospice	
Neurological Outcome	Neurological Outcome at Discharge from Hospital	Good Cerebral Performance (CPC1) Moderate Cerebral Disability (CPC2) Severe Cerebral Disability (CPC3) Coma, vegetative state (CPC4)	
CPC Score	N/A	CPC 1/2 CPC 3/4 Missing	This data element maps neurological outcome to CPC Score, grouping CPC 1 and 2, and CPC 3 and 4. We recommend that CPC 1 and 2 be grouped together as a positive neurological outcome.
Hospital - Was hypothermia care initiated/continued	Was hypothermia care initiated or continued in the hospital	Yes No	This field is applicable only if ER Outcome = Admitted to hospital.
Original Emergency Room Outcome	N/A		
Transfer Hospital ID	N/A		Unique transfer hospital identifier generated by CARES. Included in CARES dataset when needed for analysis.
Hospital (Trans) - Was hypothermia care initiated/continued	N/A		This field is applicable only if the patient was transferred and admitted to a secondary receiving facility.

Header	Title on CARES Form	Responses	Description/Comments
Why was hypothermia care not initiated or continued in the hospital?	Why was hypothermia care not initiated or continued in the hospital?	Awake/Following commands DNR/Family request Unwitnessed cardiac arrest Unshockable rhythm No TH program in place Other	This supplemental hospital element was added in 2016.
Date of Discharge/Death	Date and time of Discharge/Death	MM/DD/YY	
Time of Discharge/Death	Date and time of Discharge/Death	HH:MM	
Final Diagnosis Myocardial Infarction	Was the final diagnosis acute myocardial infarction	Yes No	
Coronary Angiography Performed	Coronary Angiography Performed	Yes No Unknown	
Coronary Angiography Date	If "Yes", please provide date and time:	MM/DD/YY	This field is applicable only if Coronary Angiography Performed = Yes.
Coronary Angiography Time	If "Yes", please provide date and time:	HH:MM	This field is applicable only if Coronary Angiography Performed = Yes.
Was a cardiac stent placed	Was a cardiac stent placed	Yes No Unknown	
CABG Performed	CABG Performed	Yes No Unknown	
ICD placed and/or scheduled	Was an ICD placed and/or scheduled	Yes No Unknown	
Estimated Time Of Arrest	Estimated Time Of Arrest	HH:MM:SS	
Time of 1st CPR	Time of 1st CPR	HH:MM:SS	
Time of 1st Defibrillation	Time of 1st Defibrillatory Shock	HH:MM:SS	
Call Received At Dispatch Center	Time call received at dispatch center	HH:MM:SS	
FR Dispatched	Time First Responder dispatched	HH:MM:SS	
FR En Route	Time of First Responder en route	HH:MM:SS	
Ambulance Dispatched	Time Ambulance dispatched	HH:MM:SS	
Ambulance En Route	Time for Ambulance en route	HH:MM:SS	
FR On Scene	Time First Responder arrived at scene	HH:MM:SS	
Ambulance On Scene	Time Ambulance arrived at scene	HH:MM:SS	
EMS At Patient Side	Time EMS arrived a patient's side	HH:MM:SS	
Ambulance Left Scene	Time Ambulance left scene	HH:MM:SS	
Ambulance Arrived At ED	Time Ambulance arrived at ED	HH:MM:SS	

## **Appendix F: National Dataset Fee FAQ**

### **Fees of Accessing the CARES National Dataset FAQ**

#### Overview

- As of January 2020, new research projects that receive funding from external sources will be charged a data fee for accessing the national dataset.
- The intent of this fee is not to inhibit access to the CARES national dataset. However, when external funds are awarded for a study, that CARES can recoup some of its costs in supporting the research process

#### What projects are charged a fee?

- There is no charge to access the CARES National Dataset if the research or study is funded from internal sources at the researcher's institution.
- CARES charges 5% of the total project award amount when the research or study is funded from sources external to the researcher's institution.
- Examples of external funding sources include but are not limited to:
  - The National Institutes of Health
  - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
  - American Heart Association
  - Industry

#### How do I notify CARES of my project receiving/not receiving funding?

- The CARES National Data Sharing application includes questions pertaining to the funding status of the study. Please complete the application as accurately as possible.
- If the funding status changes after the application is completed and submitted to CARES, please notify the CARES Epidemiologist, Rabab Al-Araji ([rabab.al-araji@emory.edu](mailto:rabab.al-araji@emory.edu)) as soon as possible.

#### What happens if my project receives an extension?

- If your project receives an extension and is externally funded, a 5% fee will be charged to the additional award amount.

#### How do I make a payment to CARES?

- Once CARES is notified that a project is externally funded, CARES will request that the below information be completed.
  - Invoice Information:
    - Researcher Name:
    - Project Name:
    - Funding Source:
    - Total Award Amount:
    - Primary Invoice Contact Name:
      - Email:
      - Phone:
    - Secondary Invoice Contact Name:
      - Email:
      - Phone:
    - Physical Address
- As soon as this information is submitted to CARES, an invoice will be generated and returned to the researcher. CARES asks that payment via check be received within 30 days.

#### Additional Questions?

- Please contact:
  - CARES Epidemiologist, Rabab Al-Araji, MPH ([rabab.al-araji@emory.edu](mailto:rabab.al-araji@emory.edu))