



6th Annual

EMS CE Fall Forum

December 11, 2025



Resource support and assistance provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System.

Special thanks to the AEMS' Dues Paying Members and Volunteers for their generous contributions in helping make this conference possible for the past 6 years.





**Welcome to the 6th Annual EMS CE Fall Forum
December 11, 2025**

On behalf of Arizona Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. (AEMS), it is our pleasure to welcome you to the **6th Annual EMS CE Fall Forum**. Since 1975 - that's 50 years - our focus has been on fostering collaboration, improving communication across the EMS system, and offering learning opportunities that enhance patient care. As we look ahead, today's Fall Forum continues that commitment by providing a learning experience that supports EMS professionals and the communities they serve.

We recognize that this year's Fall Forum comes at a time when EMS agencies across Central Arizona and statewide are facing tough challenges - workforce shortages, rising call volumes, and the growing demands placed on EMS agencies. When budgets are tight, education is often the first area cut. In addition, anticipated Medicaid cuts will place further strain on the EMS system, affecting agency operations and the resources available to support training and overall readiness.

AEMS remains committed to supporting the Central Region through these grim times. Our focus is on providing meaningful and accessible education to EMS professionals. We also continue to strengthen communication, coordination, and shared learning across the region, ensuring that EMS agencies have a dependable partner as we face these challenges together.

We appreciate your participation and involvement, as well as your feedback on how we can improve. We also extend our appreciation to the presenters, education committee, and volunteers whose time and expertise make the Fall Forum and all our education events possible. Their commitment, along with your participation, strengthens our regional EMS system and the services provided across Central Arizona.

THANK YOU for being here today. Your involvement reflects your dedication to learning, growth, and high-quality patient care. As our 50th Anniversary year ends, we look forward to continuing this work together and supporting the future of EMS in Central Arizona and beyond.

With sincere appreciation,

Ryan Southworth, DO
Chair, AEMS

Sandy Nygaard, EMCT-P
Planning & Outreach Chair, AEMS

Peggy Baker
Executive Director, AEMS



EMS CE Fall Forum ▪ Thursday ▪ December 11, 2025

AGENDA

8:15 - 8:45 am	Zoom Room Open
8:45 am	Opening Remarks
9:00 - 10:00 am	Case-Based Maternal Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation through OBLS <i>Andrea Shields, MD, MS</i>
10:00 - 10:10 am	Break
10:10 - 11:10 am	Recognition and Management of Patients with Congenital Cardiac Abnormalities <i>Christopher Lindblade, MD</i>
11:10 - 11:20 am	Break
11:20 am - 12:20 pm	Sexual Assault and Strangulation: More than Meets the Eye <i>Jennifer Slominski RN, CEN, SANE-A</i>
12:20 - 1:20 pm	Lunch
1:20 - 2:20 pm	Management of ATV injuries <i>Alex Olsen, MD, FACS</i>
2:20 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Toxicology Case Review <i>Dan Quan, DO</i>
3:30 - 3:35 pm	Break
3:35 - 4:35 pm	Geriatrics: What's New (Again) with the Old Folks <i>Beth Ranney, MD</i>
4:35 - 4:45 pm	Closing Remarks & Evaluations

Disclosures and Credentialing

Presenter Name	Disclosures
<p>Andrea Shields, MD, MS</p>	<p>The presenter is part of the OBLS development team and is involved in the AHRQ grant for OBLS to be disseminated in AZ.</p> <p>Principal Investigator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R18HS026169: Advances in Patient Safety through Simulation Research grant • 1R18HS029639-01: Adaptation of an Evidence-Based Curriculum to Teach the Prevention, Evaluation and Treatment of Maternal Medical Emergencies for Prehospital & Hospital Healthcare Workers in Rural Context • 1R18HS029814-01: Implementation of a Maternal Resuscitation Curriculum in a Regionalized Perinatal Health System: Maximizing the Chain of Survival to Reduce Maternal Health Inequities • Member, Varda5, LLC, owns exclusive sublicense for OBLS
<p>All other presenters indicated no relevant relationships to discuss.</p>	

Nursing CEs

This nursing continuing professional development activity was approved by New Mexico Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

In order of Appearance

When Every Second Counts: Case-Based Maternal Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation through OBLS

Andrea Shields, MD, MS

ashields@uchc.edu

This interactive, case-based session explores evidence-based management of maternal cardiac arrest (MCA) using the Obstetric Life Support (OBLS) framework. Participants will work through real-world scenarios emphasizing rapid recognition, modified resuscitation techniques, and the critical timing of resuscitative cesarean delivery using Kahoot. Through structured case discussion and team-based problem-solving, attendees will learn to integrate OBLS algorithms into clinical practice, enhance communication under pressure, and optimize outcomes for both mother and fetus. The session highlights key updates in maternal resuscitation science, simulation-based education, and interdisciplinary coordination when every second counts.

Dr. Andrea Shields currently holds the positions of Professor and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program Director in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Connecticut Health. Additionally, she serves as the Chair for the Committee on Practice Bulletins – Obstetrics and is a member of the Governance Committee for the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. Dr. Shields is actively involved as a specialty and subspecialty Board Examiner for the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

She is the co-creator of Obstetric Life Support (OBLS), a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum designed to train healthcare providers in preventing and managing maternal medical emergencies and cardiac arrest, thereby addressing the urgent issue of maternal mortality and morbidity and improving patient outcomes. Dr. Shields is also the CEO of Varda5, LLC, a mission-driven company dedicated to transforming maternal emergency readiness through scalable simulation training, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovative education.

In addition to her interest in reducing maternal mortality, Dr. Shields is a nationally recognized expert in maternal sepsis.

Recognition and Management of Patients with Congenital Cardiac Abnormalities

Christopher Lindblade, MD

clindblade@phoenixchildrens.com

This presentation will cover pediatric cardiology topics including: neonates with critical CHD; common medications used in stabilization of critical CHD; explanation of anatomy and cardiovascular physiology of common surgeries performed for CHD; and common emergencies in children with CHD. A brief review of arrhythmias in pediatrics will also be discussed. Participants will Identify clinical findings of critical congenital heart disease lesions, Create a plan for medical stabilization of critical congenital heart disease, Understand the anatomy and physiology of common surgical intervention that treat congenital heart disease, and Identify common pediatric arrhythmias and develop a treatment plan.

Dr. Christopher Lindblade is Associate Clinical Professor of Child Health at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and the Medical Director of the Fetal Cardiology Program at Phoenix Children's Hospital. He is a pediatric cardiologist with expertise in advanced imaging modalities including fetal echocardiography and transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography. Dr. Lindblade serves as Program Director of the Advanced Non-invasive Cardiac Imaging fellowship at Phoenix Children's. Dr. Lindblade's interests include education, quality improvement, and programmatic development to enhance the comprehensive care of the mother and fetus. He is Chair of the internationally attended Phoenix Children's Fetal Cardiology Symposium. He serves in the Fetal Heart Society as Secretary on the Executive Board and co-Chair of the Conference Committee.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

In order of Appearance

Sexual Assault and Strangulation: More than Meets the Eye

Jennifer Slominski RN, CEN, SANE-A

fndi.jenn@gmail.com

This presentation provides an in-depth overview of the medical, forensic, and multidisciplinary response to patients who have experienced sexual assault and strangulation.

Participants will explore the physiological impact of non-fatal strangulation, the importance of timely recognition and documentation, and the principles of trauma-informed care to support survivors through evaluation and evidence collection. Emphasis will be placed on collaboration among healthcare providers, law enforcement, and advocacy professionals to ensure a coordinated, compassionate, and effective response that promotes both patient safety and justice. In this session, participants will: define sexual assault and strangulation within the context of forensic nursing and legal frameworks; identify the short- and long-term physical, psychological, and forensic implications of sexual assault and strangulation; describe the physiological mechanisms and potential medical sequelae of non-fatal strangulation; recognize the common and subtle signs and symptoms of strangulation injuries that may not be immediately visible; demonstrate appropriate trauma-informed care techniques to minimize re-traumatization during assessment and evidence collection; explain the components of a comprehensive forensic medical examination, including documentation, evidence collection, and chain of custody; and discuss best practices for collaboration and communication among multidisciplinary team members, including law enforcement, advocacy, and healthcare professionals.

Jennifer Slominski is a nationally certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner–Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A), a Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN), and the founder of Precision Forensic Nursing Solutions. With over 30 years in healthcare and more than 25 years dedicated to working with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, Jennifer applies her extensive clinical knowledge and practical experience to everything she does.

Her contributions extend to the education of EMS and law enforcement professionals, creating and delivering training rooted in trauma-informed, victim-centered care. Jennifer’s work bridges the gap between medicine and the law, helping legal professionals better understand injury patterns, medical documentation, and the dynamics of interpersonal violence. She is committed to improving the justice system’s response to victims through collaboration, education, and the application of forensic medical science.

Management of ATV injuries

Alex Olsen, MD, FACS

ao@thesurgicalist.com

This presentation will discuss common and severe injuries from ATV accidents, along with the management of these injuries pre-hospital and in hospital. Participants will Identify airway injuries, Identify tension PTX vs hemothorax vs pneumothorax, Identify TBI with or without spinal cord injuries, and Identify extremity vascular injuries.respiratory crises in pediatric patients.

Dr. Alex Olsen received his medical degree from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in Lubbock, Texas. He completed his general surgery residency at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center through the Creighton University GME Program in Phoenix, Arizona, beginning in 2008. He then completed a trauma fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Olsen has been practicing for more than 10 years at a Level 1 Trauma Center and is affiliated with Abrazo Health. His clinical experience includes caring for general surgery patients and managing complex trauma cases involving traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injuries, ARDS, rib fractures including flail chest, abdominal injuries, and extremity injuries.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

In order of Appearance

Toxicology Case Review

Dan Quan, DO

dquan@aztox.com

This case-based toxicology review is designed for EMS providers and focuses on current substance-related emergencies encountered in the prehospital setting. Through real-world case scenarios, participants will examine common and emerging toxic exposures, recognize key assessment findings, and review evidence-based management strategies.

Dr. Dan Quan is a board-certified Emergency Physician and Medical Toxicologist at District Medical Group, practicing at Valleywise Health. He is a Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix and Creighton University. Currently he serves as the acting chairman of the department of emergency medicine at Valleywise Health.

Geriatrics: What's New (Again) with the Old Folks

Beth Ranney, MD

beth.ranney@bannerhealth.com

Back by popular demand, this presentation will review new research and the latest in geriatric medicine just in time for snowbird season! Issues to be addressed included: new recommendations for geriatric trauma from ATLS 11; anticoagulation-pearls and pitfalls; EMS interventions we should modify for the elderly; new themes in geriatric research

Dr. Beth Ranney graduated Arizona State University in 2004 with degrees in molecular biosciences and biotechnology, and anthropology. She worked at the Arizona Burn Center until 2006 and graduated from the University of Arizona College of Medicine in 2010. She completed her residency in emergency medicine at Maricopa Medical Center (now Valleywise Health) in 2013.

Dr. Ranney currently practices at several Banner emergency departments around the valley, mostly at Banner Ironwood & Goldfield as the EMS and Trauma director. She adores her husband Joe, who is a Phoenix firefighter, and her two sons Angus (9) and Ewan (7).



**Andrea Shields
MD, MS**

*Thank
you!*

2025 EMS CE Fall Forum Presenters



**Jennifer Slominski
RN, CEN, SANE-A**

*Thank
you!*



**Christopher Lindblade
MD**

*Thank
you!*



**Alex Olsen
MD, FACS**

*THANK
YOU!*



**Dan Quan
DO**

*Thank
you!*



**Beth Ranney
MD**



EMS Odyssey Conference

June 11, 2026



8:45 am - 4:30 pm

CEs Available
for EMCTS & RNs



**Special Discounted Rate
for Forum Participant
\$25**

Expiration Date: January 15, 2026

For More Info/Register

<https://aems.org/odyssey>





2025 EMS CE Fall Forum Volunteers

Sandy Nygaard, EMCT-P - Host

Kristin Niehoff, RN

Barb Schaffer, RN

Special Thanks for the Support Of

AEMS Education Committee

AEMS Dues Paying Members

AEMS Board of Governors

**Arizona Department of Health Services,
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System**

Grant Preston, Webmaster

New Mexico Nurses Association

Peggy Baker, AEMS, Executive Director

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Michelle Angle

Arizona State Ambulance Association
Representative of a statewide ambulance association (private-sector
EMCT employer)

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AEMS
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Representative of Citizen of the AEMS Region

Eileen Blackstone

Mesa Fire and Medical Department
Representative of an EMCT training program

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Arizona Emergency Nurses Association
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Representative of Physician active in practice of emergency medicine
/ prehospital administrative medical direction and practicing at a
trauma center hospital

Doug Costal

Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Representative of EMCT-Paramedic serving in a predominantly non-
administrative capacity

Nicola Crim

Native Air / Air Methods
Representative of helicopter ambulance employer of EMCTs,
recommended by statewide ambulance association, representing a
private sector employer

Garth Gemar, MD

AEMS
Past Chair, AEMS Board of Governors

Annie Giagni, RN

Exceptional Community Hospital Maricopa
Representative of Hospital administrator, non-trauma center

Cori Hayes

Mesa Fire and Medical Department
Representative of Public employer of EMCTs (population >500,000)

Gaby Iskander, MD, MS, FACS

American Trauma Association
Representative of trauma surgeon recommended by trauma
surgeons association

Steven Maher, MD

Mayo Clinic Hospital
Representative of a physician in emergency medicine / prehospital
administrative medical direction, as an administrative medical director
for a pre-hospital EMS agency.

Tracy Moroney, RN

HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center
Representative prehospital care manager, trauma center hospital

Kristin Niehoff, RN

Phoenix Children's Hospital
Representative of administration of hospitals, trauma center
hospital.

Sandy Nygaard

AEMS
Chair, Planning & Outreach Functional Group

Raymond Ochoa

Phoenix Fire Department
Representative of Public employer of EMCTs (population
>500,000)

Beth Ranney, MD

Banner Ironwood & Gateway Medical Centers
Representative of Physician active in practice of emergency
medicine / prehospital administrative medical direction and
practicing at a non-trauma center hospital

Chris Riddle

Gila River EMS
Representative of public employer of EMCTs (population
<50,000)

Roy Ryals

AEMS
Treasurer, AEMS Board of Governors

Barb Schaffer, RN

Gila River Healthcare
Representative of prehospital care manager, non-trauma center
hospital

Julie Smith

Salt River Fire Department
Representative from rural EMS provider, tribal agency

Casey Solem, MD

Arizona College of Emergency Physicians
Representative of physician in emergency medicine,
recommended by a professional association of emergency
physicians

Ryan Southworth, DO

Gila River Healthcare
Chair, AEMS Board of Governors;
Chair, Patient Management Functional Group

Alyson Welch

Maricopa Fire/Medical Department
Representative of public employer of EMCTs (population 50,000–
500,000)

Peggy Baker

AEMS
Executive Director

Thank You Central Arizona

EMS and Trauma Care Provider Agencies and Hospitals

Arizona Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. (AEMS)

expresses our appreciation for the care, dedication, and commitment of

all the staff and volunteers affiliated with Central EMS and Trauma provider agencies and hospitals.

Thank YOU for supporting and enhancing emergency medical and trauma care for all of Central Arizona.

Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital	Casa Grande Fire Department
Abrazo Arrowhead Campus	Cave Creek Fire Department
Abrazo Buckeye Emergency Center	Central Arizona Mountain Rescue
Abrazo Cave Creek Hospital	Chandler Fire Department
Abrazo Central Campus	Christopher Kohls Fire Department
Abrazo Peoria Emergency Center	Circle City - Morristown Fire District
Abrazo Scottsdale Campus	Cobre Valley - Kearney EMS
Abrazo Surprise Hospital	Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center
Abrazo West Campus	Coolidge Fire Department
Aguila Fire Department	Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical
Air Evac Services / Phi	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Ahwatukee ER
Ak-Chin Fire Department	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Chandler Germann ER
American Medical Response (AMR)	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Chandler McQueen ER
Angel Medflight	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Gilbert ER
Arizona Ambulance Association	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Glendale Olive ER
Arizona American College of Emergency Physicians	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Glendale Camelback ER
Arizona City Fire District	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Goodyear ER
Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Mesa Baseline ER
Arizona Emergency Nurses Association	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Mesa Power Road ER
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Buckeye Valley	Dignity Health - Arizona General - San Tan Valley ER
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Sun City West	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Surprise ER
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Sun Lakes	Dignity Health - Arizona General - Tempe Rural ER
Arizona General Hospital - Laveen	Dignity Health - Arizona General Hospital – Laveen
Arizona General Hospital - Mesa	Dignity Health - Arizona General Hospital - Mesa
Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association	Dignity Health - Chandler Regional Medical Center
Avondale Fire-Rescue	Dignity Health - Mercy Gilbert Medical Center
Banner Air	Dignity Health - St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center
Banner Baywood Medical Center	Dignity Health - St. Joseph’s Westgate Medical Center
Banner Boswell Medical Center	East Valley ER and Hospital
Banner Casa Grande Medical Center	El Mirage Fire Department
Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center	El Mirage Emergency Room and Medical Center
Banner Desert Medical Center	Eloy Fire District
Banner Estrella Medical Center	Exceptional Community Hospital Maricopa
Banner Gateway Medical Center	Florence Fire Department
Banner Goldfield Medical Center	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Fire Department
Banner Ironwood Medical Center	Fountain Hills 24/7 ER and Medical Center
Banner Ocotillo Medical Center	Fountain Hills Fire Department
Banner Payson Medical Center	Gila Bend Fire Department
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center	Gila River EMS
Banner University Medical Center - Phoenix	Gila River Fire Department
Buckeye Fire Medical-Rescue	Gilbert Fire and Rescue
Canyon Fire District	Gisela Valley Fire District
Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center	Glendale Fire Department

Thank You Central Arizona

EMS and Trauma Care Provider Agencies and Hospitals

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Globe Fire Department	Queen Creek Fire & Medical
Goodyear Fire Department	Queen Valley Fire District
Guadalupe Fire Department	Regional Fire and Rescue Department
Harquahala Valley Fire District	Rio Verde Fire District
Hellsgate Fire Department	Salt River Fire Department
HonorHealth Complete Care - Paradise Valley	San Carlos Apache EMS and Fire Department
*HonorHealth Complete Care - Pleasant Lake	San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation
HonorHealth Complete Care - Surprise	Scottsdale Fire Department
HonorHealth Deer Valley Medical Center	Stanfield Fire District
HonorHealth Florence Medical Center	Sun City Fire & Medical Department
HonorHealth Four Peaks Medical Center	Superior Fire Department
HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center	Superstition Fire & Medical District
HonorHealth Mesa Emergency Center	Surprise Fire-Medical Department
HonorHealth Mountain Vista Medical Center	Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department
HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center	Thunderbird Fire District
HonorHealth Scottsdale Shea Medical Center	Tolleson Fire Department
HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center	Tonto Basin Fire District
HonorHealth Sonoran Crossing Medical Center	Tri-City Fire District
Houston Mesa Fire District	Valleywise Emergency - Maryvale
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital	Valleywise Health Medical Center
Maricopa Ambulance	Waterwheel Fire & Medical District
Maricopa Fire/Medical Department	Wickenburg Community Hospital
Mayo Clinic Hospital	Wickenburg Fire Department
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Medical Rescue Posse	Wilderness Medics
Mesa Fire and Medical Department	
Native Air Ambulance / LifeNet / Air Methods	
Payson Fire Department	
Pinal County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Posse	
Peoria Fire-Medical Department	
Phoenix Children's Emergency Department - Avondale	
Phoenix Children's Hospital - Arrowhead Campus	
Phoenix Children's Hospital - Phoenix	
Phoenix Fire Department	
Pinal Rural Fire and Medical District	
Pleasant Valley Fire District	
PMT Ambulance	

**Opening January 2025*

This list is intended to be inclusive of all Central Region EMS and Trauma Care Agencies and Hospitals. If an agency/hospital was omitted from this list, we sincerely regret the oversight. Please notify us so that we may update. Thank you.

Updated December 2025



**26TH
ANNUAL**

EMS ODYSSEY CONFERENCE

COMING JUNE 11, 2026



For more information and to register, visit:

<https://aems.org/odyssey>

Coordinated By



AEMS
ARIZONA EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

