

SCAA Launches New Store for Community to Show Support, Spread Awareness



Just in time for holiday shopping, SCAA has developed a new consumer [store](#) full of merchandise for survivors, family and friends, members and consumers, in general, to show their support of increasing awareness of cardiac arrest. SCAA has teamed up with the popular online merchandiser Spreadshirt.com to provide a variety of mens, womens and kids apparel, accessories and festive seasonal items like Santa hats and stockings. A portion of all proceeds from the store goes directly to SCAA educational and advocacy programs. New merchandise is uploaded daily, so shop often from the comfort of your own home knowing that your purchase truly makes a difference. Just look for the green shopping cart button on the SCAA Web site!

CMS Rolls Out Program to Investigate Payment of Unnecessary Heart Devices



Doctors are on alert that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ([CMS](#)) will be monitoring more closely patient medical records to gage the appropriateness of procedures, devices and hospital stays, as part of the agency's new "Recovery Audit Contractor Prepayment Demonstration Program." The purpose of the program is to revise the current "pay and chase" method of tracking improper payments after the fact so that taxpayer dollars are being spent on procedures and treatments that are truly medically necessary.

Over the next three years, the program will target 11 states which were singled out due to high rates of fraudulent claims and high claims volumes for short inpatient stays, including: California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Michigan, Texas, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Currently, procedures are classified as appropriate, inappropriate or uncertain, and physicians have the right to provide individualized patient care. It's not yet known what physicians will be required to do to document their decision making, especially in "uncertain" cases.

Sports Safety Group Announces New Guidelines to Better Protect Athletes



At the third Youth Sports Safety Summit on December 6 in Washington, DC, sports safety advocates from over 60 organizations joined forces to address concussion/brain injury, heat illness, SCA, exercise-induced asthma and sickling prevention among young athletes. Hosted by the [National Athletic Trainers Association](#) (NATA), the event included a pre-release of a new position statement, "Preventing Sudden Death in Sports," to appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Athletic Training*.

"Young athletes are suffering chronic and catastrophic injury from sports," said NATA president Marjorie Albohm. "Only 42 percent of high schools have access to an athletic trainer - most often the primary health care provider when a young athlete goes down on the playing field." According to the NATA, the position paper marks the first time an organization has provided such detailed information on various conditions in one publication to offer guidance to doctors, coaches, parents and others in making more well-informed decisions on return-to-play status and course of treatment.

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New Bill Introduced in Congress to Raise Awareness of SCA and Save Lives



Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) introduced the [Cardiomyopathy HEARTs Act](#) which mandates raising awareness of sudden cardiac arrest in schools and childcare facilities and requires better preventive measures to save young peoples' lives. The bill calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and patient advocacy organizations to provide educational materials about SCA.

“Too often we hear about heartbreaking cases in the news where otherwise healthy young people die very suddenly from what has been a silent killer,” said Pallone. “It’s my hope that this legislation would prevent many of those deaths, but we cannot prevent SCA without raising awareness about its causes.”

FDA Not Sold on Heart Failure Implant Device, Cites Bias in Study



Just days after government regulators said the CardioMEMs implant for treating heart failure effectively met its main targets, an FDA advisory committee on Thursday voted not to recommend the device to treat heart failure. After the device is implanted in patients, its wireless sensors transmit data on pressure in the heart to computers manned by doctors.

Data from a clinical trial conducted by CardioMEMs show that the device significantly reduced the number of hospitalizations among heart failure patients. However, a majority of members of the FDA panel could not determine whether the device's benefits outweighed the risks. Questions were raised in an earlier FDA staff report that indicated CardioMEMs intervened in clinical research to such an extent that went beyond study protocol. The advisory panel vote is only one step in the approval process but could ultimately impact the FDA's final decision on whether or not the device is available in the consumer marketplace.

Extra! Extra! SCAA National and Chapters are Making News



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November 30, 2011

EP Lab Digest

[Where We Live: Sudden Cardiac Arrest](#)

December 9, 2011

WNPR

For more information about SCAA and how you can help save lives, visit www.suddencardiacarrest.org.

**Mark Your Calendar and
be there with SCAA for these Exciting Events!**
[NAEMSP Annual Meeting](#): January 12-14, 2012
[Parent Heart Watch Annual Conference](#): January 13-15, 2012

[EMS Today](#): February 28-March 3, 2012
[American College of Cardiology](#): March 24-27, 2012
[Heart Rhythm Society Annual Conference](#): May 9-12, 2012
[Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update](#): September 11-15, 2012

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