

Gadgets and Gizmos



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Overview

- ◆ Definitions
- ◆ How to incorporate gadgets and gizmos into your service
- ◆ Gadgets
- ◆ Gizmos
- ◆ The future

Shawn's Definitions

- ◆ Gadget – Electronic device used to fulfill a need or a perceived need
- ◆ Gizmo – Non-electronic device used to fulfill a need or a perceived need

How to decide on a gadget for your service

- ◆ Need
- ◆ Will it meet that need
- ◆ Is the cost balanced by usefulness
- ◆ Will your crews use it
- ◆ Is the device too limited in what it can do
- ◆ Is it durable enough

- ◆ Place a firefighter in a locked room with three ball bearings
- ◆ Come back in 30 minutes
 - One will be broken
 - One will be missing
 - One will be eaten



OK, you bought it, now what?

- ◆ Make sure your crews know how to use it
- ◆ Make sure they know when not to use it

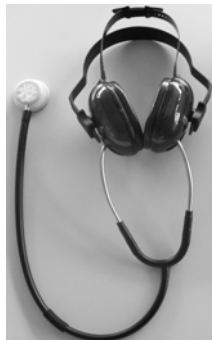


Now what, cont.

- ◆ Follow up:
 - Is it meeting expectations
 - Is it being used
 - ◆ Properly?
 - What can be done to improve it?
 - Are there other possible uses for the device?

VitalSound

- ◆ Headset stethoscope
- ◆ Reduces ambient noise by significant amount
 - Vehicle engines
 - Extrication equipment
 - Sirens
 - Road noise



VitalSound, cont.

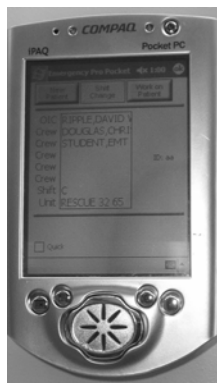
- ◆ Downside
 - Hard to get the stethoscope in your ears
 - Have to dedicate stethoscope to headset

PDA's

- ◆ Pocket PC
 - EMS Pro
- ◆ Palm Pilot
 - Epocrates
 - ACLS 2001
 - Palm EKG

EMS Pro

- ◆ Pocket PC software for EMS reports
 - Integrates with EMS Pro software on PC's
 - Pen based system
 - Hand held
 - Can print to infrared capable printers



EMS Pro

- ◆ Downside
 - Requires laptop or desktop PC to complete report, for now
 - Battery life on Pocket PC's could be better
 - No narrative, yet
 - Linear report

Epocrates

- ◆ Palm-based system for prescription medications

- 2600 medications
 - ◆ Indications
 - ◆ Contraindications
 - ◆ Side effects
 - ◆ Drug Interactions
 - ◆ Other information
- ◆ Adding alternative medications
- ◆ Multi-check



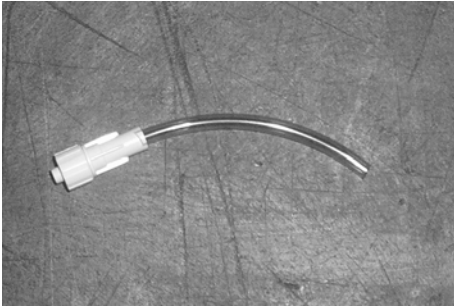
Epocrates, cont.

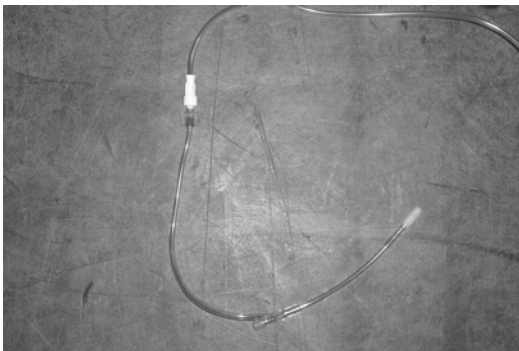
- ◆ Downside
 - No overdose indications or treatment

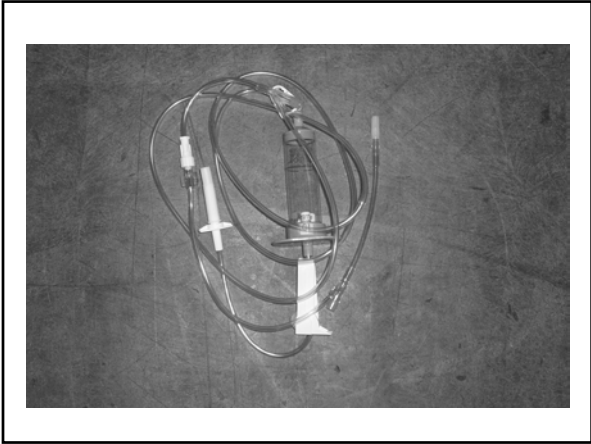
ACLS 2001

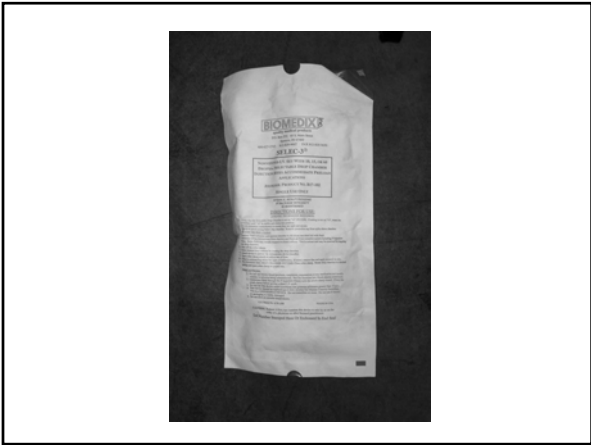
- ◆ Palm Pilot ACLS Algorithms
 - Quick reference of current ACLS guidelines
 - FREE
 - ◆ www.tucows.com

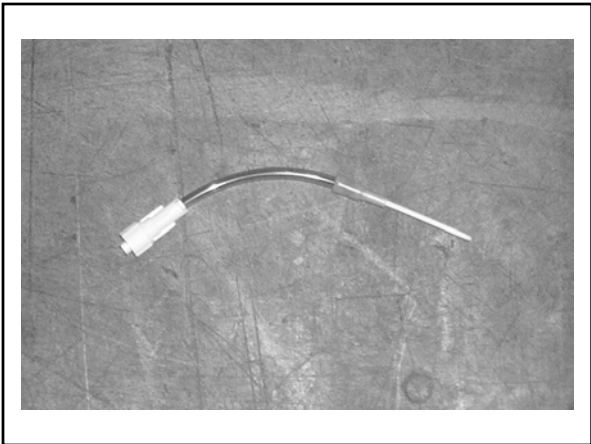
Finding Gizmos











Rule

- ◆ Even if you have something that works, don't be afraid to look for something new
- ◆ Don't overlook the stuff you already have

Palm ECG



- ◆ ECG Unit for Palm Pilot
 - Small
 - Shows ECG on screen
 - Ability to print from Palm Pilot to infrared capable printer
 - Inexpensive

Palm EKG

- ◆ Downside
 - Cables
 - Rate monitor
 - Auto off on Palm

Future of Gadgets

- ◆ Need gadgets that can make a difference in patient care for US!!!
- ◆ Better communication between devices
- ◆ More Integration?
 - $1+1=1.5$
- ◆ Roanoke, VA

What do you want to see?

- ◆ Gadgets usually start as a street medic saying "I wish we could do..."

Thank You



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