Terminal Illness

• EMS Operations at the World’s Busiest Airport
• Airport EMS Interfaces Way Beyond the Runway Mishap
• James J Augustine, MD
• Eagles February 2016
What can we Learn from an EMS Operation at the Airport?

- Lessons from The Most Difficult Paramedic Assignment in the City
The Practice

- All Hazards Preparedness, ending with an airplane crash
- Delivering Great Emergency Medical Care
- Applying Best Hospital Resources
- Applying Regional Assets
- Doing Public Education
- Collaborating with the CDC
The Principles

• Extreme Culture of Safety
• Outstanding Customer Service
• Emergency Medical Care in front of an Audience
• “Quality Dispositions”
The Realities

- Everyone is Going to Sue
- Documentation needs are Very High
- Continuity of Operations is Extraordinary Driver of Scene Operations. Very Different than “Downtown”
The Data at the Airport is a Difficult Graph to read

• Service needs change each day
• How to serve during “pushes”
• When weather gets bad
• When seasons make for huge volume changes
The Patient

• Stressed
• AFRD Paramedics asked to do “Fitness for Flight” Evaluations
• CPR Success using AED’s is VERY HIGH (Almost as high as Casinos)
100 Million Pax a year are here
EMS Customer Service

- Transport Options and the search for “Quality Dispositions”
- The Ambassador Service for Atlanta and the United States
- Persons sent from another country because they are “sick”, and know they can get care in the US
- Death on the Airplane
Great Emergency Medical Care

• Protocols Specific to the ED
• CPR – CARES Registry
• Disproportionate Treat and Go
• The “Quality Disposition” – when, where, who
Public Education

• Prevention Agenda
• Infection Control Programs
• AED program
• Wellness while traveling
Hospital Interface

• The ambassador service

• Managing family

• Returning passengers to the airport and their travel plans
Using Regional Resources

• Children
• Airlines
• Ebola
All Hazards Preparedness

- All forms of emergencies
- Active Shooter programs need to be in place, and consistent, for events like bombs and persons actively shooting in public places
- Using Regional Assets
Oh, and Airplane Incidents
Airport Crashes

- Two or Three Wounded Airplanes arrive Daily at ATL
- All Airport MCI plans are being updated, based on the Asiana experience (180 patients inside security fence)
• Ebola outbreak offered a new opportunity
• MERS, Zika, other illnesses
• Everyday illnesses
• Personnel Health

Collaboration with CDC
The Airport Gives You Opportunities!

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- Chief Scott Blackwell
- Atlanta Airport Fire Rescue