# Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) Documentation

## OHCA Inclusion

For your ePCR to be classified as **OHCA**, one or more of the following must be true:

- Cardiac Arrest = "Yes, Prior to EMS Arrival (includes Transport EMS & Medical First Responders)" or "Yes, After EMS Arrival (includes Transport EMS & Medical First Responders)". Select YES for cardiac arrest of any etiology including traumatic, overdose, respiratory, drowning etc.
- Provider Primary or Secondary Impression indicates cardiac arrest *[Patient Assessment → Symptoms Impression]*. In the State of MT Elite ePCR, this option indicates cardiac arrest:

| Impression Label | ICD Code* |
|---|---|
| CV- Cardiac Arrest | I46.9 |

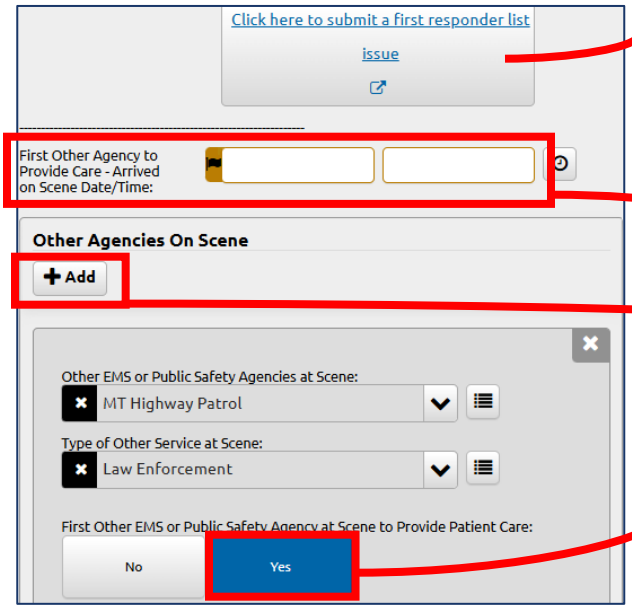
*ICD Codes are the values that ultimately get sent to NEMSIS, but they are typically not visible to the ECP who is completing the report. Agencies that use 3rd party vendors should make sure their ICD code mappings align with the state's mappings.

## QI Measures for OHCA

| Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MT | | US | |
| QI Measure | % | Denominator | % | Denominator |
| 3.1- OHCA: EMS Arrival to 1st CPR <2 Minutes | 48% | 466 | 23% | 104,989 |
| 3.2- OHCA: Sustained ROSC (Unwitnessed) | 3% | 515 | 2% | 139,075 |
| 3.3- OHCA: Sustained ROSC (Bystander Witnessed) | 12% | 456 | 11% | 81,095 |
| 3.4- OHCA: Sustained ROSC (EMS Witnessed) | 11% | 79 | 9% | 23,654 |
| 3.5- OHCA: Initial Cardiac Rhythm Documented | 90% | 1,051 | 86% | 254,469 |
| 3.6- OHCA: Cardiac Arrest Alert to Hospital | 63% | 424 | 30% | 99,704 |

- For EMS arrival to 1st CPR time interval, you must document the Time of Initial CPR.
  - If Arrest occurred Prior to any EMS/First Responder arrival:
    - Did your unit initiate CPR? If so, the time interval begins when your unit arrived on scene
    - Did a First Responder (EMS/LE/Non-EMS Fire) initiate CPR? If so, the time interval begins when they arrived on scene. Document First Responders in the Unit Info or Cardiac Arrest sections of the ePCR (available both places for convenience).
    - Did a bystander initiate CPR? It is not included in this measure.
  - If Arrest occurred after any EMS arrival, the time interval begins at the time of arrest.

## First Responders (Other Agencies on Scene)




Request changes to the First Responder/Other Agencies dropdown list via the ePCR suggestion box

https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/ePCR-suggestion-box

Fill in the First Responder/Other Agency time of arrival ONLY if they provided patient care before your arrival (ie- performed CPR, applied AED, defibrillated). Otherwise, leave blank.

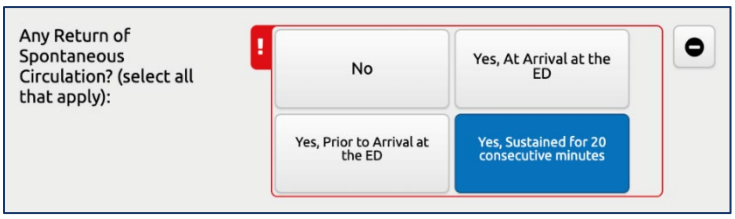
Multiple other agencies can be added

Select YES to indicate which other agency is the CARES First Responder. A CARES First Responder should be documented when another agency provides care in an OHCA.

Only indicate 1 CARES First Responder. If multiple other agencies were present and provided care, select YES for the one that was first to provide patient care.

Last Updated 3/25/2026 by Hannah Yang (hannah.yang@mt.gov)

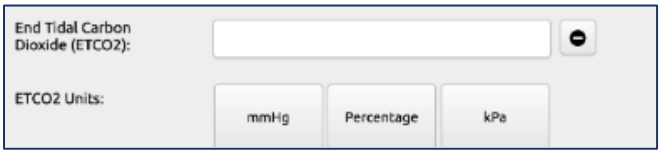
- For Measures related to ROSC:




  - **Any ROSC is a multi-select field!!** The answers you select impact CARES reporting of ROSC.
    - If you choose "No", do not choose any other answer
    - For **Temporary Sustained ROSC** (ie- ROSC sustained for >20 min, but patient was pulseless at the end of EMS care), select either:
      - "Yes, Sustained for 20 consecutive minutes" with no other selection
      - "Yes, Sustained for 20 consecutive minutes" + "Yes, Prior to arrival at ED"
    - For **Sustained ROSC** (ie- Patient had a pulse at end of EMS care), select either:
      - "Yes, at arrival at ED" with no other selection
      - "Yes, at arrival at ED" + "Yes, Sustained for 20 consecutive minutes"
    - For ROSC that lasted less than 20 minutes (ie- ROSC <20 min occurred, and patient was pulseless at the end of EMS care), select:
      - "Yes, Prior to arrival at ED" with no other selection
- For Initial Cardiac Rhythm, EMTs can document based on monitor display or document unknown AED shockable or unknown AED non-shockable.
- A radio/cell report to the ED notifying them of an incoming suspected cardiac arrest is considered an Alert/Activation regardless of hospital protocols. Make sure to document your cardiac arrest alert

## Capnography

- Enter capnography in the Vitals section of the ePCR *[Provider Actions→ Vitals]*




## OHCA Procedures

- Enter procedures in the Procedures section of the ePCR *[Provider Actions→ Procedures].* Examples of procedures that might be done during an OHCA are:
  - Airway – ETCO2 Monitoring → Must also be documented in Vitals
  - Airway, advanced – ETCO2 Capnography → Must also be documented in Vitals
  - CPR- Manual
  - CPR- Mechanical Device
  - Airway – Assist Ventilation – Bag Valve Mask (BVM)
  - Airway – Assist Ventilation, intubated– BVM via tube
  - CV- Automated External Defibrillator
  - Intubation – Supraglottic Airway Insertion
  - IV Start- (several options) → Can document with IV/IO PowerTool
  - IO Start-Intraosseous Access → Can document with IV/IO PowerTool