



BACK TO BASICS CPR:

The Need for Objective Skills Evaluation by Eric Chappell, PhD

In the last few years, both the science and the practice have been pointing to the need to improve CPR performance.

The science of physiology, performance evaluation and focus on survival outcomes are all combining to change the emphasis in CPR training. It is now clear that objective evaluation can influence performance, training and outcomes.

The Science: Recent advances are helping us understand what happens physiologically when we press on the chest; how blood moves when we press on the chest, how perfusion takes place and how pressing some ways works better than. Practice has shown us that there are thresholds of performance that must be met in order to provide positive influence on the survival of the victim. This knowledge is behind recent calls for greater attention to be paid to the quality of CPR performed.

Performance Evaluation: Consistent broad based research results point to lower than desirable performance standards. A detailed examination shows this to be the result of poor instructional design, flaws in instructional materials, insufficient correction of practice and no objective skills evaluation. These factors point to systemic issues rather than individual performance issues as being the real problem.

Survival Outcomes: Entrenched attitudes and inconsistent behavior means that carrying a CPR card is not an indication that a person can perform CPR properly. The requirement for training is met as an obligation to meet a regulation rather than as a skill which needs to be learned. Neither the system nor the individual takes the responsibility of linking performance to what actually happens to the victim.

Need for Objective Evaluation. Objective evaluation can go a long way to putting the emphasis back on competent performance. Ambu SmartMan is an intelligent CPR training manikin solution that can achieve objective evaluation. SmartMan provides a practical and cost effective solution to many of the above mentioned problems and is available today. It provides both the trainer and the person being trained with an easy and accurate way to immediately demonstrate improved performance and competency.