

## AGENDA



Thursday, August 27, 2009

**Emergency Medical Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 13**

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**Subject:** Approve an ordinance accepting \$71,844 in grant funds from the National Institutes of Health and Hospital Physicians in Clinical Research, P.L.L.C; and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Emergency Medical Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$71,844 for training and supply costs related to participation in the Rapid Anticonvulsant Medication Prior to Arrival Trial (RAMPART). **Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from the National Institutes of Health and the Hospital Physicians in Clinical Research (HPCR) Organization. The grant period is September 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Ernesto Rodriguez, Director 512-972-7148

**Prior Council Action:** September 25, 2008 - Resolution No. 20080925-080 approved.

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The Rapid Anticonvulsant Medication Prior to Arrival Trial (RAMPART) is a National Institutes of Health study in which the EMS Department has been asked to participate. The study is a double-blind randomized clinical trial of the efficacy of intramuscular Midazolam (also known as Versed) versus intravenous Lorazepam (also known as Ativan) in the pre-hospital treatment of prolonged seizures.

Seizures are a common medical problem. Most seizures are short and stop without intervention, but those that do not stop in seconds or minutes are dangerous, life-threatening medical emergencies. These prolonged seizures, also called status epilepticus, occur when there is a sudden and long disruption of the brain's normal electrical activity. They can often cause unconsciousness and jerking and twitching movements.

Paramedics often have medications that can stop these seizures, but the best way to give them has not been adequately studied. The goal of the RAMPART study is to determine whether giving anti-seizure medicine works better and more quickly when given through an IV (a small tube in the vein) or when given as a shot in the muscle. Two similar medicines, Midazolam and Lorazepam, will be used. Both are already used by paramedics in the field and by doctors in the hospital to stop seizures. Lorazepam is commonly given through an IV, and Midazolam is commonly given as a shot in the muscle.

This trial is being conducted in partnership with the University Medical Center Brackenridge Hospital, and the EMS Medical Director is a principal investigator in this study. The research findings from this trial will aid in improving prevention and treatment of seizures.

Funding in the amount of \$71,844 will provide for initial training of EMS staff and supplies. Training will cover logistics of the trial, the application of the study to patients, use of the study box, and the follow-up required for the study.