

# FLORIDA RESUSCITATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **General Information**

### **What is the Florida Resuscitation Center of Excellence (FRCE) program?**

The FRCE program is an initiative to improve cardiac arrest outcomes across Florida by establishing a network of hospitals committed to resuscitation excellence through evidence-based practices, education, and collaboration.

### **What are the goals of the program?**

The program aims to:

- Improve survival rates for out-of-hospital and in-hospital cardiac arrest.
- Standardize resuscitation protocols across the state.
- Enhance training and education for healthcare teams.
- Provide data-driven insights to drive continuous improvement.

## **Eligibility and Participation**

### **Who can participate in the program?**

Any hospital in Florida providing emergency and critical care services is eligible, including urban, suburban, and rural facilities.

### **Is there a cost to participate?**

There is no cost or fees associated with participation in the FRCE.

### **Does ECMO need to be available in hospital 24/7? Are "Call out/Call -Back" procedures allowed?**

Yes. To meet criteria, ECMO must be available 24/7 at participating facilities.

### **For Targeted Temperature Management (TTM), is hypothermic treatment required? Our protocol focuses on maintaining normothermia based on recent literature. Does prevention of hyperthermia meet the requirement?**

Yes. The goal of TTM is normothermia, and it does not require hypothermic treatment. Current evidence-based practice supports protocols that prevent hyperthermia, which is an acceptable form of TTM. Facilities are expected to have a protocol in place—whether it involves hypothermia or euthermia—that reflects current literature and best practices in post-resuscitation care.

### **Our facility has all required specialty services, but Infectious Disease (ID) and Palliative Care are available for consult rather than being formally "on-call." Does this satisfy the requirement for on-call specialty support?**

Yes. Availability of these specialties via consult, rather than formal on-call status, is acceptable and meets the requirement—as long as the process is clearly outlined and services are accessible when needed.

### **Regarding the protocol for termination of resuscitation efforts in the ED—does the FRCE program provide any specific evidence-based references or literature to guide this?**

The intent behind this requirement is to encourage use of objective, evidence-based criteria to guide termination decisions, rather than relying solely on elapsed time. Common approaches include using end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> (ETCO<sub>2</sub>) or point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) to assess cardiac activity. The goal is to bring greater consistency and clinical objectivity to these decisions. While the FRCE program does not prescribe a specific study or citation, facilities are encouraged to incorporate literature-supported tools and protocols that reflect current standards of care. This approach also aligns with advancements in EMS and resuscitation practices, where prolonged efforts can yield positive outcomes when guided by objective indicators.

## **Benefits of Participation**

### **What are the benefits for our hospital?**

- Improved patient outcomes and survival rates.
- Recognition as a Florida Resuscitation Center of Excellence.
- Access to advanced training, tools, and best practices.
- Opportunities for professional development and collaboration.
- Benchmarking data to assess performance and drive improvements.

# FLORIDA RESUSCITATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)



## **Benefits of Participation (continued)**

### **How will this impact our hospital's reputation?**

Participating in the program demonstrates your hospital's commitment to high-quality, life-saving care, enhancing your reputation among patients, peers, and the community.

## **Recognition and Certification**

### **What does it mean to be certified as a FRCE?**

Certification recognizes hospitals that meet or exceed program standards for resuscitation care, distinguishing them as leaders in life-saving practices. Certified FRCEs will receive marketing materials and public recognition to promote their achievement.

## **Implementation and Support**

### **What support will we receive during implementation?**

Participants receive:

- A dedicated liaison or "FRCE coach"
- Training materials, protocols, and toolkits as well as access to webinars, workshops, and ongoing technical support
- Data analytics and feedback through CARES participation to guide improvement

### **Will this require additional resources or staffing?**

Most hospitals can integrate the program into existing workflows. The program focuses on optimizing current processes, but hospitals are encouraged to designate a resuscitation champion to oversee implementation.

### **How long does it take to achieve FRCE designation?**

Timelines vary by hospital readiness, with initial implementation taking as little as 3 months.

## **Data and Reporting**

### **What are the benefits of collaborating through data?**

CARES software enables EMS agencies to generate real-time survival, response interval, and demographic reports to drive system improvements for resuscitation outcomes.

### **What metrics are used to evaluate performance?**

Metrics include cardiac arrest survival rates, return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) rates, adherence to resuscitation protocols, and post-arrest care outcomes.

### **Will we receive performance feedback?**

Yes. Hospitals receive regular benchmarking reports and actionable insights to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

### **How will our data be used?**

Data submitted by participating facilities will be used to support performance benchmarking, identify opportunities for quality improvement, and measure progress toward statewide resuscitation goals. All data will be de-identified for external reporting and used in aggregate to ensure confidentiality. Insights gained will help shape best practices, guide education, and inform system-wide improvements in resuscitation care across Florida.

## **Enrollment Process**

### **How can we join the program?**

Complete the interest form or contact us to begin the readiness assessment and onboarding.

### **Is this program state regulated?**

No. There is no law or regulation requiring involvement.

### **Who can we contact for more information?**

See below for contact information.

**SCAN TO COMPLETE  
THE INQUIRY FORM!**



**THOMAS DIBERNARDO**  
thomas.dibernardo@flhealth.gov  
**JENNIFER LOGSDON**  
FRCE@emlrc.org  
Visit [www.FAEMSMD.org/FRCE](http://www.FAEMSMD.org/FRCE)