



## ***“EMS Street Sense” Inaugural issue***

There are no lessons learned in EMS more profound than those learned through experience. You can sit through hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of lectures and not really know the job of being an EMS provider. Real understanding comes when you run your first call and begin to apply everything you’ve been taught to the patient right in front of you. Suddenly the texts, the lectures, the skill stations, and the “war stories” your instructors rambled on about have to be brought together to actually take care of someone. At that moment, you actually begin to learn how to be an EMS provider.

The more experience you gain, the more your patients teach you. EMS is not a cut and dry profession with straightforward problems and simple, easily arrived upon solutions. Every patient is different and with each, you find yourself they have? No two patients are the same!

And then one day, you realize that perhaps, at core, many of the patients are the same. You find that the lessons you’ve learned over time can be applied to a broad range of circumstances and that you quickly come up with effective solutions to new problems you encounter. You’ve developed “Street Sense.”

The problem is, everyone develops his or her own solutions to problems. Although some solutions appear independently in multiple locations (i.e. attaching a nasal cannula to an IV bag to flush both eyes simultaneously), others are unique and are in danger of being lost forever.

This column is an attempt to gather as many solutions to as many problems as possible. Although I can draw upon my own solutions and those of my co-workers and share those with you, I am hoping to get as many members of the EMS community as possible to share their own unique solutions. Any and all contributions are welcome and I encourage responses to suggestions in the column. My primary focus will be airway management, but all aspects of EMS (from better immobilization to how best to hide from grumpy supervisors) are fair game.

Stay tuned for the next issue, when we’ll launch the column with a discussion of opening the airway—what works and why. In the interim, please send in your thoughts, comments, suggestions, and solutions to: [streetsense@otwo.com](mailto:streetsense@otwo.com)

Always remember, it’s not YOUR emergency. Stay safe.

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