

# ER-TEMS

## EMORY RURAL TELE-EMS NETWORK

### WHAT?

The **Emory Rural Tele-EMS Network (ER-TEMS)** will provide telemedicine services to ambulance crews treating patients across rural Georgia. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded ER-TEMS a \$1.2 million grant over four years. With this grant, the ER-TEMS team will create a sustainable model resulting in improved efficiency of the EMS system as well as improved medical care. Early comprehensive telemedicine assessments will reduce unnecessary transports and optimize the utilization of hospital resources to deliver the right care at the right time and the right place.

### WHO?

**Ill and injured rural residents of Georgia** are at a disadvantage. Prolonged EMS transport times due to long-distances contribute to worse medical outcomes in time-sensitive critical conditions like strokes, heart attacks, and trauma. Rural Georgians also have an increased incidence of high-risk medical conditions leading to complications of childbirth. Worse medical outcomes in rural Georgia are linked to the prolonged time required to transport patients to the closest most appropriate medical facility.

### WHY?

The **ultimate goals of the ER-TEMS program are to address disparities in medical care**, support rural EMS personnel, and enhance access to high quality healthcare for rural patients. We expect to achieve improved medical outcomes for rural Georgians by providing comprehensive evaluations and treatment recommendations at the point of patient contact with EMS. Implementation of this telehealth network in rural EMS will allow for evidence-based coordinated care for thousands of rural Georgians. ER-TEMS will leverage relationships with academic, commercial, and public health partners to decrease time-to-diagnosis and time-to-definitive care.

### HOW?

**Computers and remotely linked telecommunications technology** will allow for earlier comprehensive evaluation by Emory Emergency Physicians at the point of patient contact in rural Georgia. The patients will be safely transported to local facilities for definitive care after initial stabilization and treatment, in collaboration with guidance from the on-call tele-emergency provider. The Emory Physician will coordinate care with the most appropriate and closest rural hospital to ensure consistent, up-to-date management that occurs at the right time and place.

### WHERE?

ER-TEMS Emergency Physicians will be available to perform tele-EMS evaluations for patients residing in **12 rural counties of Georgia**: Baldwin, Ben Hill, Brooks, Clay, Cook, Decatur, Hancock, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, and Worth.