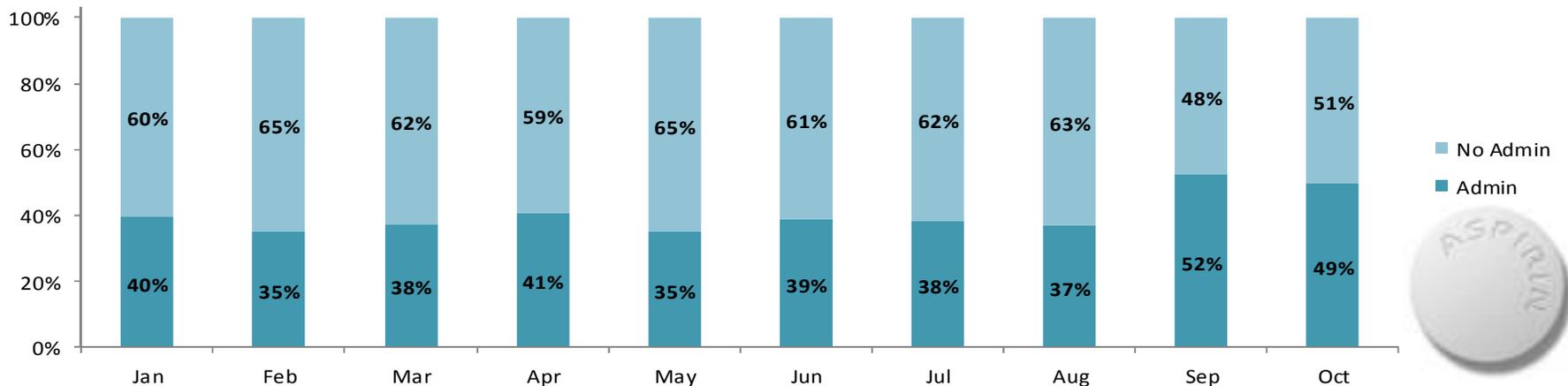




# Improving Basic Cardiac Care in New Hampshire EMS

AHA Guidelines indicate Aspirin may reduce the severity of a heart attack and may also help the symptoms of unstable angina. When EMS arrives on scene, many of our patients have taken Aspirin at the direction of E911 or heard about it on TV. Following these guidelines, NH EMS Protocol Standing Orders for EMT and above are to administer 324 MG of Aspirin for cardiac chest pain. Regardless of how the patient gets Aspirin (self, family or 1<sup>st</sup> Responder), the only way to ensure they received it is through proper documentation.

According to TEMSIS data, New Hampshire EMS as a whole is only administering Aspirin to about 50% of patients with cardiac chest pain. The administration of Aspirin should be greater but is difficult to measure because it is being documented in the Narrative rather than within the medication section, which does not yield good statistics on how New Hampshire Services are fulfilling the chest pain protocol. The documentation of Aspirin (even if it is prior to arrival) is complete when it's documented in the medication section (see figure 2 below).



**Figure 1: The bottom % indicates the patients received Aspirin and top % indicates patients not receiving Aspirin for 1/1/2014 through 10/31/2014.**

The goal, within the next 30 days, is to raise the documentation of Aspirin administration up above 75% to ensure the patient received Aspirin regardless of who gave it (self, family or 1<sup>st</sup> responder).

The screenshot shows the IMAGE TREND EMS SERVICE BRIDGE interface. The 'Vitals/Rx' tab is active, and the 'Add Medication' form is displayed. The form includes the following fields and values:

- Prior to Arrival?**: Yes
- Crew Administering Med**: Not Available
- Medication Name**: Aspirin (ASA)
- Dosage**: 324.00
- Dosage Unit**: MG
- Route**: Oral
- Response to Medication**: Unchanged
- Comments**: Instructed to self administer by E911...
- Complication(s)**: Altered Mental Status, Apnea, Bleeding, Bradycardia

A blue callout bubble on the left side of the form contains the text: "Prior to arrival administration of Aspirin should be documented here." The bubble points to the "Prior to Arrival?" dropdown menu.

Figure 2: Document ASA administration Prior To Arrival in the Vitals/Rx | Add Medication tab.