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## Around Pinellas 》>

## Health notes

New defibrillators at EMS


#### Abstract

Early this month the entire Pinellas County emergency medPinellas County emergency med- ical services system, includ- ing Sunstar Paramedic ambulances, transitioned to new Phil- ips HeartStart MRx ECG moni-  nbeall@ tampabay.com  Life Support providers," said Mark Postma, Sunstars chief Sunstar's chief operating officer. Sunstar invested approxSunstar invested approx- imately $\$ 1.5$ million in the upgrade. The cardiac monitors are capa- ble of electrocardiogram monible of electrocardiogram moni- toring, defibrillation, cardiover toring, defibrillation, cardiover- sion, 2 lead cardiogram acquision, 12 ead cardiogram acqui sition and transmission to the hospital. The monitors are also able to act as a temporary ple able to act as a temporary pace- maker, monitoring blood presmaker, monitoring blood pres sure, pulse, oxygen and carbon dioxide saturation. One of the most significant features of the new monitors is Q-CPR, which allows firefighter/ Q-CPR, which allows firefighter/ paramedics and Sunstar to paramedics and Sunstar to resuscitation to patients without a pulse. The Q-CPR is a sensor connected to the cardiac moni connected to the cardiac moni- tor that is placed on the chest of the patient. This provides caregivers real-time feedback on the depth and rate of compressions during CPR. The monitor also provides a clear picture of changes in patient's heart ryythm, allowing for timely recognition of heart attacks. Sunstar, the911ambulancetrans- port service for all Pinellas Count port service for all Pinellas Count residents, employs 550 local resi dents, and responds to around 500 calls a day. The organization is al- so a recipient of the Florida Govso a recipient of the Florida Gov ernor's Sterling Award, recognizing role models for organizational

New Philips HeartStart MRx ECG monitors/defibrillators are now in use by the Pinellas County emergency medical services system, including Sunstar Paramedic ambulances. performance excellence. more than 16,000 facilities in 152 Clearw . . Friendly status received Baby Clearwater's Morton Plant Friendly" status recived "BabyWorld Health Organization the United Nations Children's Fund by continuing to demonstrate its ability to offer mothers the needed to successfully initiate and continue breastfeeding their The hospital received its first Baby-Friendly designation in "Baby-Friendly status is "Baby-Friendly status is a tancommitment to creating a sys tem of support freating our breastfeeding mothers," said Marcia Albanese, Morton Plant Mease director of women and children's services. "Breast milk is uniquely services. "Breast milk is uniquely suited for babies and their nutritional needs and helps protect against a host of illnesses for both children and mothers." The Baby-Friendly Hospi1991 by the WHO and UNICEF and is a global effort to implement practices that protect, pro- mote and support breastfeeding mote and support breastfeeding


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