**Additional File 2.** The differences in opinions and practices between the most experienced quartile of Finnish HEMS physicians (with 20 years or more work experience as physician in total, *n*=12) and other physicians (*n*=47) analysed with Fisher’s exact test.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The question or claim with significant difference | The distribution of answers on five-point Likert-scale (%) |
| Fully agree/constantly |  | Disagree/never |
|   1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | p |
| Reasons for LCOs and cancellations on HEMS missions: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age of the patient | Most experienced | 17 | 17 | 17 | 25 | 25 | 0.002 |
| Less experienced | 2 | 49 | 38 | 9 | 2 |
| The patient is in an HCF or NH | Most experienced | 0 | 75 | 0 | 17 | 8 | 0.003 |
| Less experienced | 13 | 62 | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| Multiple or severe comorbidities | Most experienced | 42 | 17 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0.004 |
| Less experienced | 57 | 38 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| The patient is not in need for emergency medical care | Most experienced | 0 | 67 | 17 | 8 | 8 | 0.003 |
| Less experienced | 9 | 14 | 47 | 28 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LCOs are an essential part of HEMS physician’s work | Most experienced | 67 | 0 | 17 | 8 | 8 | 0.016 |
| Less experienced | 60 | 26 | 0 | 13 | 2 |
| It is relieving that I can make a LCO without meeting the patient | Most experienced | 17 | 0 | 33 | 17 | 33 | 0.035 |
| Less experienced | 17 | 26 | 21 | 30 | 6 |
| HEMS physician need to make decisions concerning patients in HCF if a paramedic asks for consultation | Most experienced | 42 | 8 | 8 | 33 | 8 | 0.031 |
| Less experienced | 13 | 49 | 9 | 26 | 4 |
| The situations, in which I make a LCO, are generally clear to me | Most experienced | 50 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0.033 |
| Less experienced | 17 | 51 | 13 | 15 | 4 |
| I have good knowledge-based capacity to make LCOs | Most experienced | 33 | 42 | 17 | 8 | 0 | 0.035 |
| Less experienced | 11 | 72 | 17 | 0 | 0 |

LCO is a limitation of care order, HCF is a health care facility and NH is a nursing home.