



## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NEEDS NEW ULTRASOUND

Technology is standard of care and saves lives

Susan's an expectant mother who almost lost her life. Doug almost died after a car accident.

Both were saved thanks to an emergency department ultrasound. An emergency room physician diagnosed Susan's abdominal pain as a tubal pregnancy. She lost her baby but is now expecting a healthy child. The doctor in emergency confirmed Doug's symptoms as internal bleeding. He later enjoyed his grandson's birthday.

It's well proven that emergency department ultrasounds save lives.

You can save a life by donating to the Foundation. Your support will help purchase a new ultrasound for the emergency room at the hospital.

"The current ultrasound machine has been in use since 2002. It's no longer adequate and is almost beyond repair," says Dr. Paul Olszynski, emergency department physician and director of ED Ultrasound for Saskatoon Health

Region. "The model we're using now is like having an old Motorola flip phone instead of an iPhone6."

While many relate the use of ultrasound to radiology and obstetrics, he says it's become standard of care in North American emergency departments. "It's a tremendously valuable, non-invasive tool for identifying internal bleeding and numerous other conditions."

**"Both lives were saved, thanks to an emergency department ultrasound."**

"With newer technology, and dramatically improved image quality, we can assess many more medical issues right at the point of care in emergency," Dr. Olszynski explains.

"For example, focused ultrasound helps diagnose patients with shortness of breath. We can quickly assess to

see if the problem is related to the heart or if they have a problem with their lungs – such as pneumonia.

"We can identify gallstones in patients with right upper abdominal pain, or look at the kidneys and identify a blocked urinary tract faster than we ever could before," Dr. Olszynski adds. "Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) is well proven to improve diagnostic accuracy in many instances."

For patients this means getting crucial treatments faster, or more complete diagnoses on first visits, or shorter stays in emergency – maybe even all three. Emergency beds are freed sooner, contributing to overall reduced wait times in the system.

If it was your loved one in emergency, would you want them to have the best care possible? You can ensure that they do by donating to the Equip for Excellence campaign.

To donate, visit [SCHFdonate.com](http://SCHFdonate.com). □