Why is the EPIC Project important?

According to the CDC’s Report to Congress, in 2010, TBIs accounted for approximately 2.5 million emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in the United States. Of them:

- 52,844 die
- 283,630 are hospitalized
- >2.2 million are treated and released from EDs

TBI is a contributing factor to a third of all injury-related deaths in the United States.¹

There is growing evidence that the management of TBI in the early minutes after injury profoundly impacts outcome. EMS operates in the ultra-acute setting, usually providing the first care for TBI victims when treatment matters the most. Reports on implementation of evidence-based TBI treatment guidelines inside the hospital are very promising. However, no studies to date have evaluated their impact in the prehospital setting.

The EMS agencies of Arizona have already proven their ability to dramatically improve cardiac arrest survival and, thus, Arizona was selected by the National Institutes of Health to do the same with TBI.

References