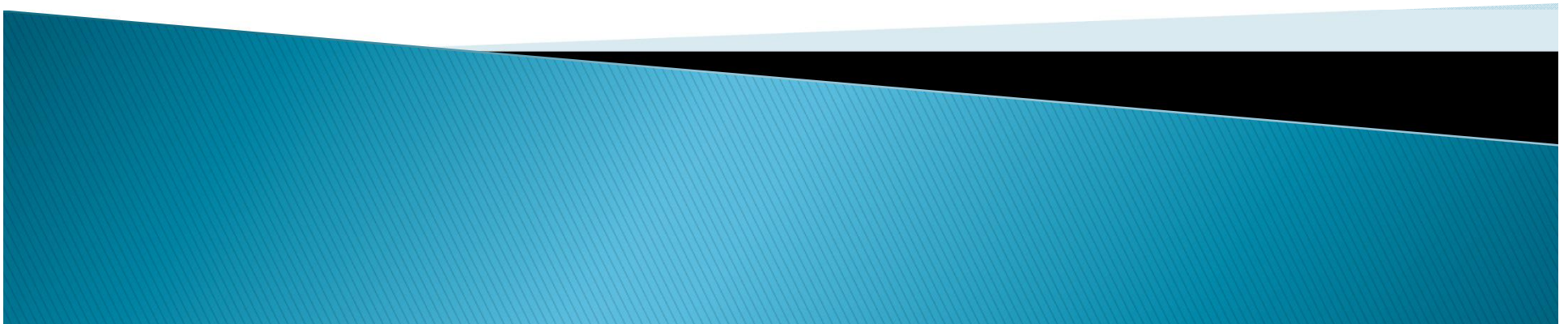


# Arkansas Trucking Association

## Sleep Apnea: The Science

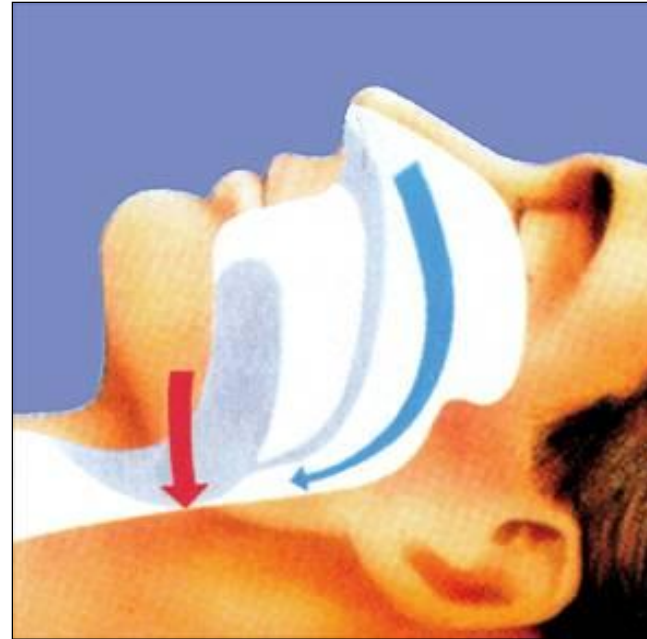
Dr Alan Lankford, PhD, FAASM  
Chief Science Officer  
SleepSafe Drivers



# DEFINITION OF OSA



Normal



Obstructed

OSA (Obstructive Sleep Apnea) occurs when the upper airway repeatedly collapses during sleep, causing cessation of breathing (apnea) or inadequate breathing (hypopnea) and sleep fragmentation.

# KEY SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF OSA

- ▶ Excessive daytime sleepiness
- ▶ Loud snoring
- ▶ Pauses in breathing at night
- ▶ Waking up gasping or choking
- ▶ Witnessed snoring or pauses in breathing
- ▶ High blood pressure



# FYI.....

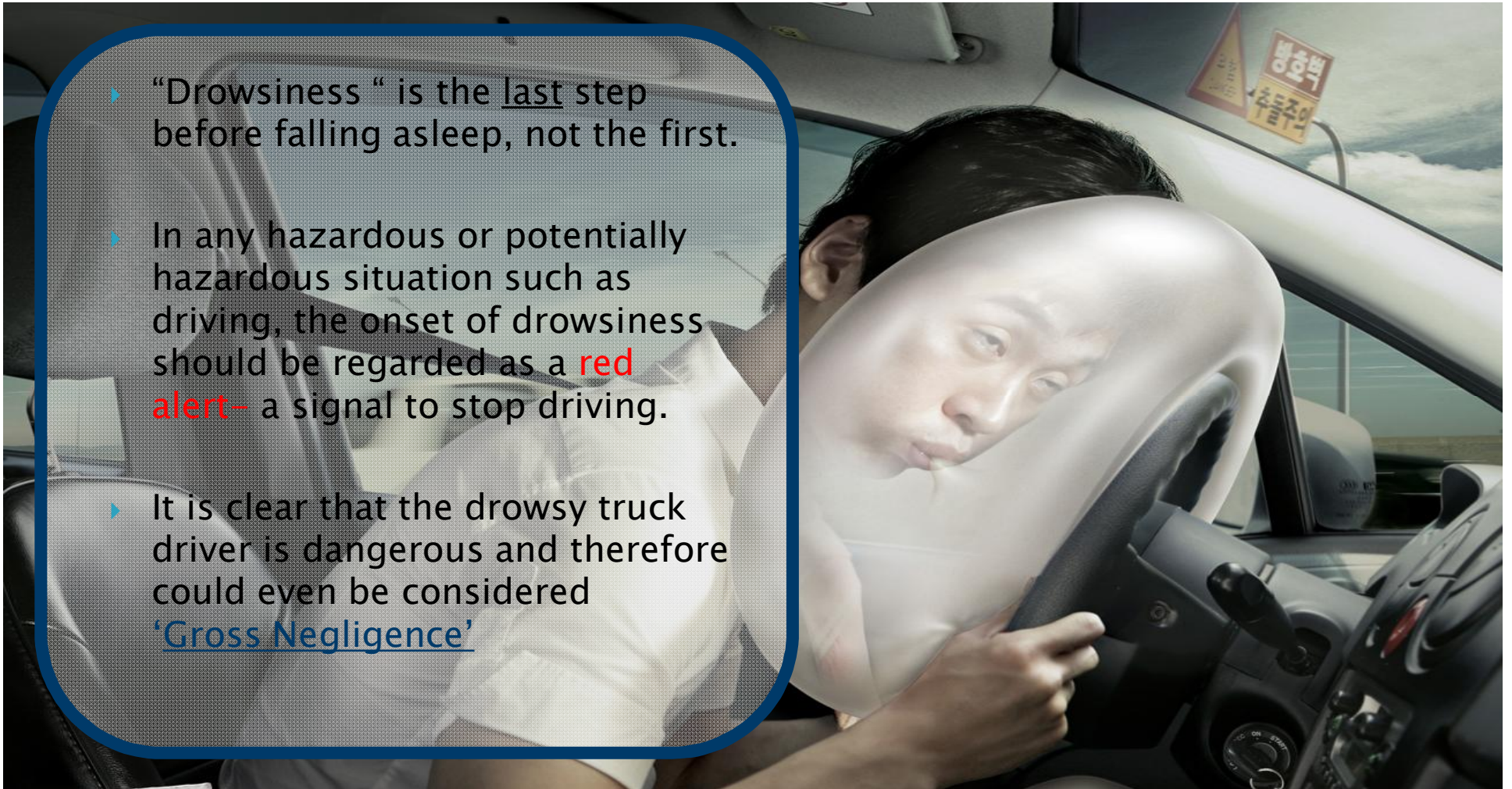
- ▶ A word about MICROSLEEPS
  - People don't have to LOOK sleepy to make mistakes
  - The brain can take short “naps” even in the middle of performing a task
  - Safety procedures can be performed “automatically” without thought or recognition of warnings





# What Legal Could State:

- ▶ “Drowsiness “ is the last step before falling asleep, not the first.
- ▶ In any hazardous or potentially hazardous situation such as driving, the onset of drowsiness should be regarded as a **red alert**– a signal to stop driving.
- ▶ It is clear that the drowsy truck driver is dangerous and therefore could even be considered ‘Gross Negligence’



# FACTS

28% of Truckers are at Risk for OSA, at 4–7 times higher crash risk

- Fatigue is a contributing factor in up to 35% of motor vehicle crashes

Driving a vehicle is a complex task requiring the coordination and integration of many skills

- Cognitive
- Perceptual
- Motor–control (control of muscles)
- Decision–making

Excessive daytime sleepiness can influence these skills negatively



<sup>1</sup>Young et al, 1997; <sup>2</sup>Horstmann et al 2000; <sup>3</sup>Barbe et al, 1998; <sup>4</sup>Dingus et al, 2006



# POTENTIAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES IF UNTREATED

## Short-Term

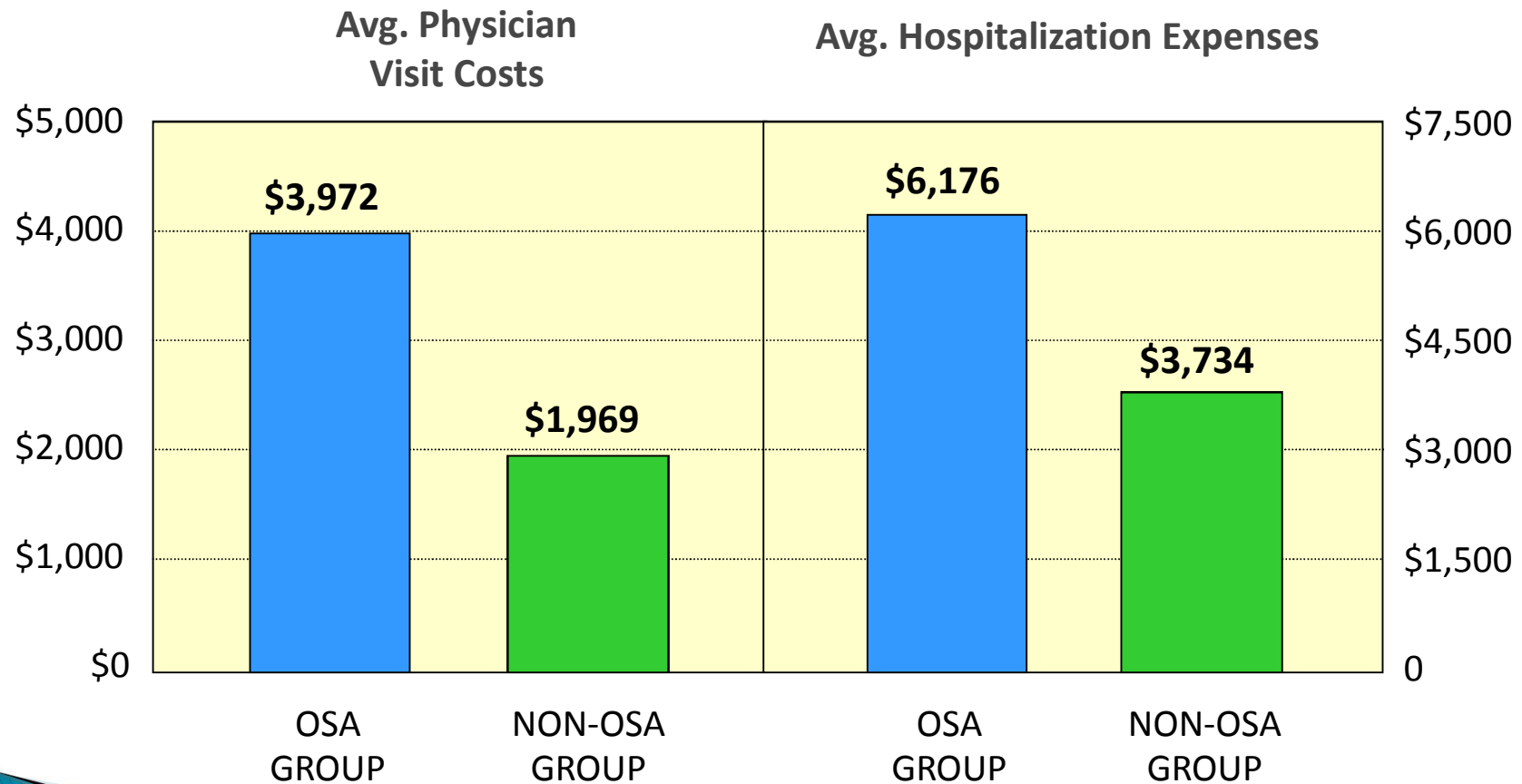
- ▶ Vehicular accidents
- ▶ Excessive sleepiness
- ▶ Decreased quality of life
- ▶ Neurocognitive and performance deficits

## Long-Term

- ▶ Hypertension
- ▶ Heart disease
- ▶ Heart attack
- ▶ Arrhythmias
- ▶ Stroke
- ▶ Impaired glucose tolerance



# THE IMPACT OF OSA ON UTILIZATION COSTS



<sup>1</sup> Kryger, et al. OSA Patients Use More Health Care Resources Ten Years Prior to Diagnosis. Sleep Research Online 1998;1(1):71-74



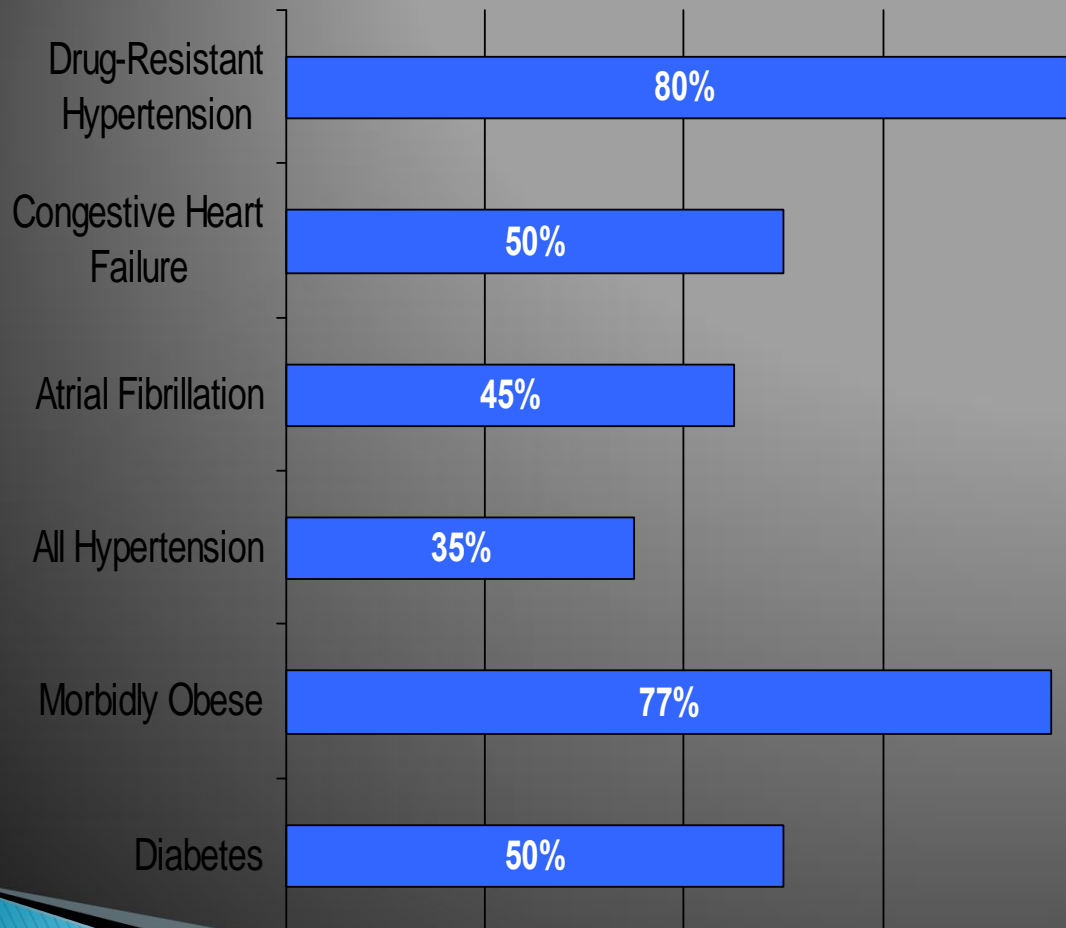
# Three of the Top Healthcare Expenditures within the Trucking Industry:

- ▶ Hypertension
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Cardiovascular Disease

*Sleep apnea helps cause and worsen them all*



# Prevalence of Sleep Apnea Co-morbidities



Logan et al.  
*J. Hypertension* 2001

Javaheri et al.  
*Circulation* 1999

Somers et al.  
*ATS Pres.* 2004

Sjostrom et al.  
*Thorax* 2002

O'Keefe, Patterson.  
*Obes Sugery* 2004

Einhorn et al.  
*Amer Diab* 2005

# THE LINK BETWEEN OSA AND HYPERTENSION

- ▶ > 40% of patients presenting with OSA have daytime hypertension (HTN)<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ 30 to 50% of patients with HTN have OSA<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Even mild OSA is a risk factor for HTN<sup>3, 6</sup>
- ▶ Patients with untreated OSA may be resistant to their anti-hypertensive medications<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Even small decreases in blood pressure may help to decrease the risk of heart attack and stroke<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Silverberg, et al., Curr Hypertens R 2001

<sup>2</sup>Kraicze, et al., AJRCCM 2000

<sup>3</sup>Bixler, et al., Arch Intern Med 2000

<sup>4</sup>Logan, et al., J Hypertens 2001

<sup>5</sup>Heinrich, et al., Circulation 2002

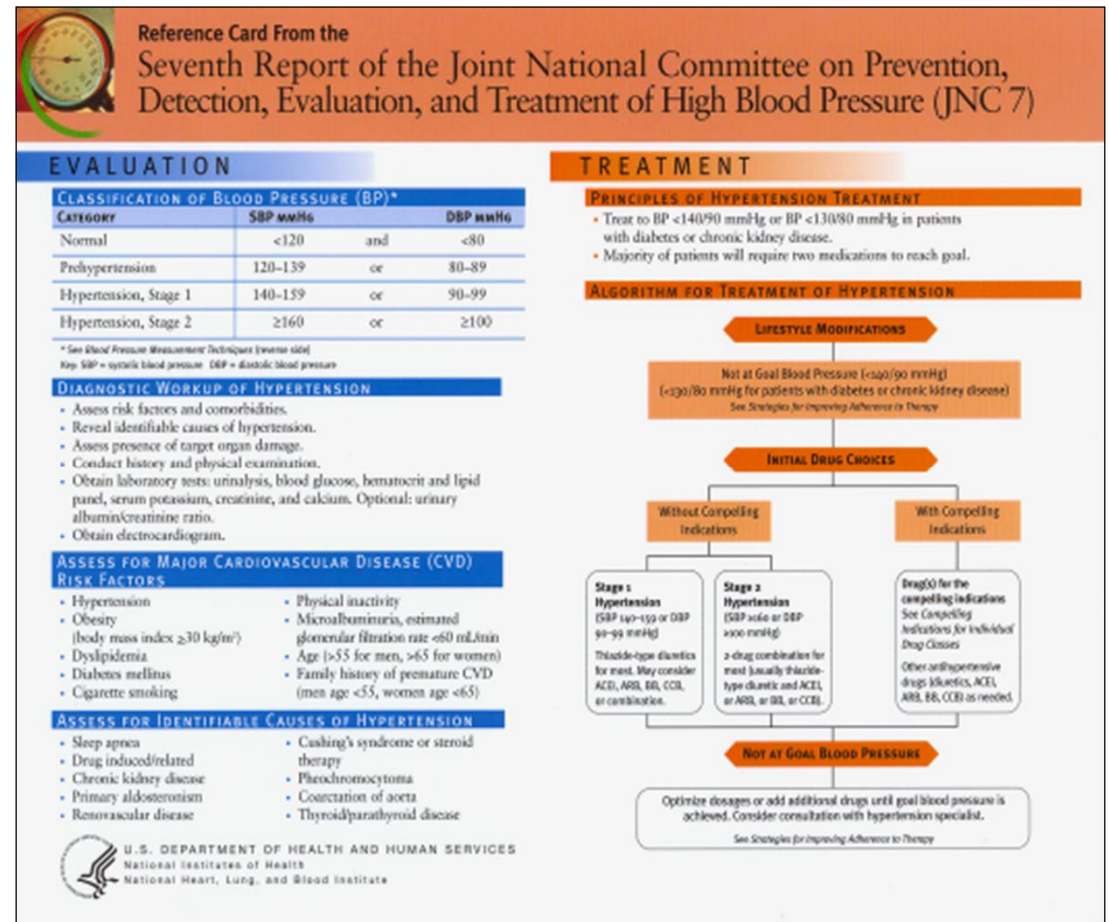
<sup>6</sup>Neito, et al., Jama 2000



# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HYPERTENSION

The Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (JNC 7) recommends screening patients for OSA when they have:

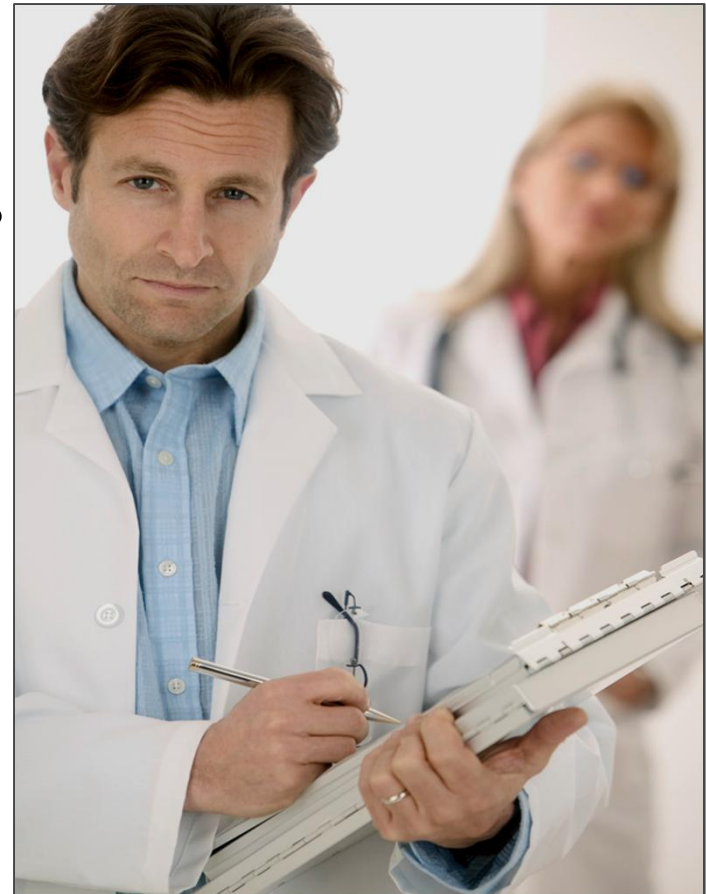
New onset hypertension  
OR  
Refractory hypertension<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Chobanian, A., et al., Hypertension 2003; 42:1206–1252

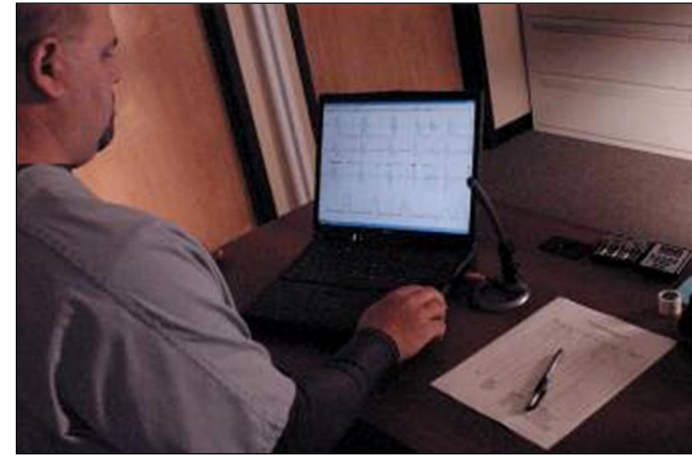
# DIAGNOSIS OF SLEEP APNEA

- ▶ Physical exam and history
- ▶ Questions about sleep & symptoms that may occur during the day, indicating a problem with sleep
- ▶ Diagnosed by having a PSG/Lab or portable sleep study performed during drivers normal sleep hours
- ▶ Remember, signs and symptoms are poor predictors of disease severity



# WHAT IS A SLEEP STUDY?

- ▶ A sleep study is a painless study that is done in an ambulatory or laboratory setting to monitor patient's sleep and breathing patterns
- ▶ The study may record the following during sleep:
  - Brain wave activity
  - Respiratory pattern
  - Heart rate
  - Chest movement
  - Leg movement
  - Eye movement
- ▶ Identification and treatment of the sleep disorder is the goal





# TREATMENT OPTIONS

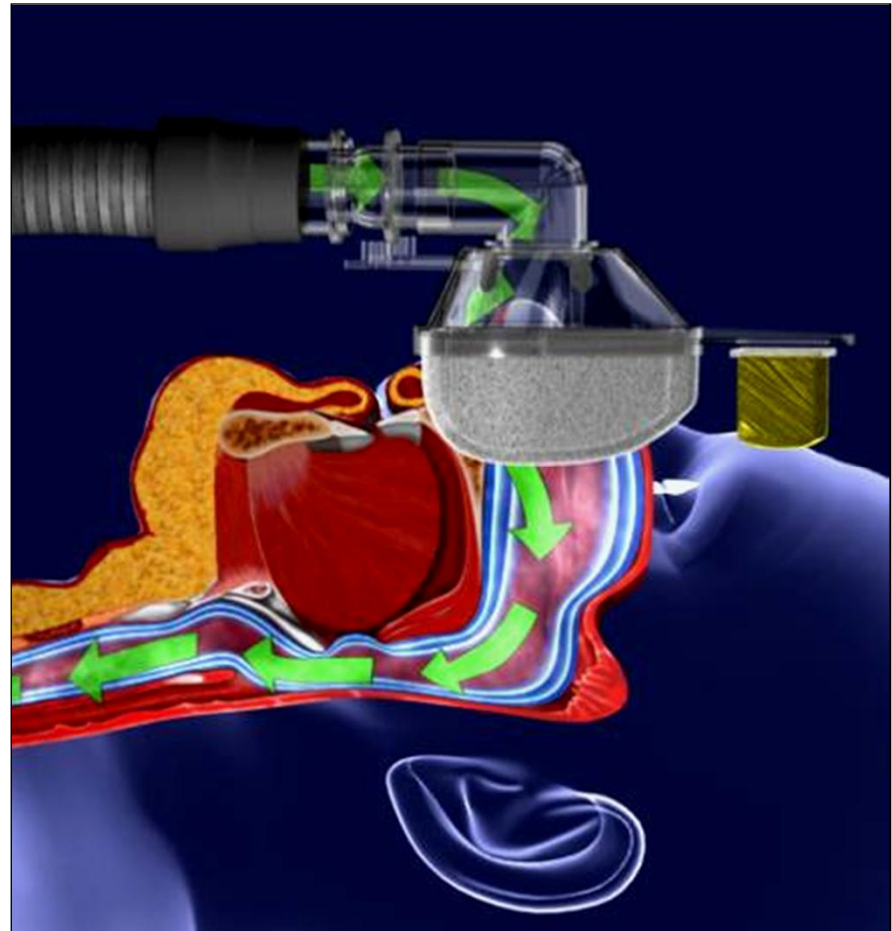
- ▶ Oral appliances
- ▶ Positive airway pressure
  - Continuous positive airway pressure
  - Bi-level positive airway pressure
- ▶ Other (limited role)
  - Medications
  - Weight loss
  - Behavioral therapy
  - Oxygen



# OSA THERAPY

- ▶ Of those patients being treated for OSA, 70 – 80% utilize CPAP therapy with a nasal mask<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ CPAP provides positive pressure to provide a pneumatic splint for the patient's airway

1 Frost & Sullivan, Sleep Apnea Models, 2001



# PAP THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH OSA

## “ CPAP

- “ One level of pressure on inspiration and exhalation
- “ Device may have the option to provide pressure relief in early exhalation

## “ Bi-level therapy

- “ One level of pressure on inspiration and lower level of pressure on expiration
- “ Device may have the option to provide pressure relief in early exhalation

## “ Auto titration therapy

- “ Device pressure is adjusted based on airway dynamics and device algorithm





# GOALS OF TREATING OSA WITH PAP

## Short Term

- Maintain open airway
- Improve quality of sleep
- Alleviate daytime symptoms
  - Sleepiness
  - Moodiness/Impaired concentration/Memory loss
  - Morning headache

## Long Term

- Reduce mortality and morbidity
  - Decrease cardiovascular consequences
  - Reduce sleepiness
- Improve quality of life

# Summary

- 28.1% of truck drivers have sleep apnea
- 3–7x increased risk for crash
- OSA is co-morbid w/other costly & chronic diseases.
- Treatment can not only improve safety and driving performance, but other health outcomes.
- Treating all US drivers suffering from apnea would save \$11.1B in collision costs and save 980 lives annually (Sassanai, et al. SLEEP 2004)



# What should a sleep program contain?

- ▶ **Consistency:** Screen to Compliance Program
  - Communication and Support of Program: **Top Down**
  - Screening Criteria
  - Test Criteria
  - Diagnosis Criteria
  - Device Criteria
  - Compliance Criteria
    - Initial and Long-Term
  - Length of Medical Card: short vs. long cards
  - Employee Policies:
    - Pre-employment Criteria
    - “Discipline” Criteria





# What should a sleep program contain?

- ▶ Screening
- ▶ Testing ( Home or In-Lab)
- ▶ Diagnosis by Physician, NP, PA-C
- ▶ Treatment Testing or Apap Titration
- ▶ Treatment Device for Drivers to Use
- ▶ Compliance Data
  - Hours of Use per day
  - Number of Days Used
  - Effective Treatment? ( must show treated AHI)



# Solutions for Fleets

- ▶ Cost Range for a Complete Program: \$1 800–\$3600
  - ( total package, for drivers DX with sleep apnea)
  - estimated at 28% of your total driver count.
  - 672,000 for 1000.00 driver fleet size ( assuming middle price point of 2400.00)
- ▶ Utilization of low cost sleep apnea resources:
  - Use of sleep apnea companies, that provide turn–key coverage for all driver/medical flow steps.
  - Online or paper Screenings vs. Consults
    - Screen All drivers
    - Take action on: Moderate to Severe Risk
    - Consults for High Risk Drivers who Struggle



# Solutions for Fleets

## Utilization Continued

- Home Sleep Testing vs. In-Lab Sleep Studies
  - One test, in-home or cab, during driver's normal sleep time. Use APAP for home titration.
- Coaching for Compliance
  - Keep your Drivers Treated
- 24-hour Test to Treatment Turnaround Times
  - Keep your Drivers Driving.....



# Solutions for Fleets

## ▶ What reimbursement models can be used?

- Privately Funded by Fleet
- Privately Funded by Driver
- Mix of Fleet and Driver
  - Contract with sleep network that has multi-tier contracting in place for many health plans, or has a private pay discount, payment plan options.
  - sleep apnea and pap treatment is already a covered benefit under the majority of health plans
  - Fleet can consider covering co-pay, or deductible assistance, payroll deductions
  - Work with Provider Relations to remove driver portion for sleep codes, \* meaning no co pay-deductions applied.





# Solutions for Fleets

## ► Keep “ External” Services to Minimum

- *What internal resources does your Fleet have?*
  - DOT Examiners–talk with their admin team, what scope of practice do they have?
  - Manage the program internally.
    - Internal download capabilities
    - Ability to have non-compliant drivers “ pushed” to safety.
    - Purchase DME and Compliance tools, and distribute them to drivers as needed, re-use compliance devices.
    - Use internal coaching, CPAP champions to help new drivers acclimate.
    - Train-the Trainer: minimize setup and operating costs.



# Solutions for Fleets

Be wary of hidden, unspoken costs...

► *Avoid the Following:*

- Unnecessary Consults and Follow-ups
- In-Lab sleep studies for all Drivers
- In-lab Titrations studies—followed by APAP Device
- Testing 100% of drivers
- Too many re-supplies
  - 2x year, plus cushions/filters, VS, quarterly.



# FMCSA OSA REQUIREMENTS:

“likely updated language” from FMCSA

- ▶ All Drivers Screened.
- ▶ OSA Diagnosis precludes unconditional certification.

A driver with a DX of OSA can be certified if:

- The driver has untreated OSA  $AHI \leq 20$ , AND the driver does not admit to experiencing sleepiness during major wake period, OR OSA is being effectively treated.
- Recertified annually through compliance with PAP
  - Compliance entails a minimum of 4 hrs/day 70% of days



# Referral for Diagnosis

- ▶ Drivers must be referred if:
  - $\text{BMI} \geq 35$ , OR
  - Judged AT RISK by way of:
    - Validated Questionnaire
    - Clinical Evaluation (considering risk factors below)
      - Advancing age
      - $\text{BMI} \geq 28$
      - Small or recessed jaw
      - Neck size  $\geq 17$  male, 15.5 female
      - Small airway ( Mallampati Scale score of Class 3 or 4)
      - Family History
      - Hypertension (treated or untreated)
      - Type 2 Diabetes (treated or untreated)
      - Hypothyroidism (untreated)



# Method of Diagnosis and Treatment

Diagnosed by:

- In-laboratory testing
- At-home polysomnography-with Chain of Custody
- “ All individuals with OSA should be referred to a clinician with relevant expertise.
- Adequate PAP pressure should be established an auto-titration system.





# Conditional Certification

- ▶ Have  $AHI \geq 20$  Compliant with PAP, OR
- ▶ Have undergone surgery pending post op findings
- ▶ Have  $BMI \geq 35$  (pending sleep study) May be certified for 60 days
- ▶ Upon PAP compliance for 60 days, a 90 day card will be issued.
- ▶ Upon 90 days of compliance a one year certification card is issued.



# Disqualification and Denied Certification

1. Reporting excessive sleepiness during the major wake period while driving OR
2. Experienced a crash while falling asleep OR
3. Experienced a single-vehicle crash OR
4. Have been found non-compliant in treatment per recommendation 1

