



# W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C

## General Meeting Minutes - February 25, 2008

**Date:** February 25, 2008  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Location:** Westchester County Department of Emergency Services  
**Chairman:** Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, MD

**MEMBERS**

Dr. Mark Silberman  
 Dr. Ron Nutovits  
 Dr. Carlos Flores  
 Dr. Karlene Chin  
 Dr. Robert Marcus  
 Dr. Emil Nigro  
 Dr. Lawrence Klecatsky  
 Dr. Richard Marino  
 Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis  
 Dr. David Goldwag  
 Dr. Tim Haydock

**AFFILIATION:**

Dobbs Ferry Community Hospital  
 Hudson Valley Hospital Center  
 Lawrence Hospital  
 Mt. Vernon Hospital  
 Northern Westchester Hospital  
 Phelps Memorial Hospital Center  
 Sound Shore Medical Center  
 St. John's Riverside Hospital  
 St. Joseph's Medical Center  
 Westchester Medical Center  
 White Plains Medical Center

**ATTENDANCE**

Alt. – Dr. H. Cordi  
 Absent  
 Absent  
 Absent  
 Present  
 Present  
 Absent  
 Absent  
 Present  
 Absent  
 Present

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

VACANT  
 Dr. Joli Yuknek  
 Dr. Richard Gallager  
 VACANT  
 Roland Faucher  
 Chief Anthony Chiarlitti

Medical Specialty (Trauma)  
 Medical Specialty (Pediatrics)/WPHC  
 Medical Specialty (Psychiatry) / WMC  
 EMS – Proprietary  
 EMS – Voluntary / MVFAVAC  
 Police / Pleasantville PD

VACANT  
 Present  
 Absent  
 VACANT  
 Present  
 Present

**GUESTS**

Ray Cordi  
 Sheri Baia  
 Dr. Michael Canter  
 Joseph Bilotto  
 Beth Sanger  
 Robert Prianti  
 Kevin Gage  
 Richard Robinson  
 Malcolm Dixon  
 Katherine O'Connor  
 Ted Tully  
 Dr. Erik Larsen

Empress  
 Empress  
 Greenwich Hospital  
 Harrison EMS  
 North Salem VAC  
 NY Presbyterian Hospital  
 NYSDOH BEMS / MARO  
 NYSDOH BEMS / MARO  
 TransCare  
 WCDES / PA  
 Westchester Medical Center / RRC  
 White Plains Hospital Center

**MEETING**

Meeting was called to order at 9:18 AM by Chair Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis. It was determined that a quorum was not present. Dr. DeRobertis continued with the discussion of some items not requiring a vote.

**CAPNOGRAPHY** – Katherine O'Connor reported again that surveys were distributed to all ALS/ILS agencies and 911 receiving hospitals to determine their ability to meet the SEMAC standard of providing wave-form capnography for all non-arrest intubated adult patients and all intubated pediatric patients. Responses had been requested by January 25<sup>th</sup>, but the office has still not heard from 1 or 2 agencies and a couple of the hospitals. The majority of the agencies responding so far, 59%, have stated that it would be easy for them to meet the deadline. For the hospitals, consistently it appears that they don't have wave-form capnography in the ER already, and only a handful have it available through another department, such as respiratory therapy. A couple of the hospitals who are currently renovating their emergency departments will be ordering new equipment that will include wave-form capnography. A full breakdown of the information will be provided as soon as all the data has been gathered.



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Discussion that more responses should be received before the data is discussed. Also discussion regarding why the SEMAC wanted continuous wave-form versus. It was recognized that additional ventilation information is relayed with wave-form that is not available with just numeric representation or the colormetric end-tidal devices. It is also not a small investment for those agencies and hospitals to have to add to their equipment caches. Will try to get the study material that the SEMAC used to support its push to implement the requirement for wave-form capnography.

**ATROPENS** – As was discussed last month, the NYSDOH is in the process of distributing Atropens to every agency, ALS and BLS, in the state for placement on their ambulances. The Atropens are seen as a short term stop-gap until the Chem-Paks are available. The materials will be distributed directly to the agencies at a train-the-trainer session done in conjunction with the NYSDOH BEMS Office of Preparedness. Dan Olmoz is working with OEM to finalizing county's Chem-Pak plan which is needed to roll-out this project.

Discussion regarding on-going training requirements after the initial rollouts are done. There doesn't seem to be a plan for continuing education with this project. Concerns are that since the Atropens will not be used, familiarity with their part in the response to a chemical attack will be lost over time. A standard training plan needs to be developed and perpetuated from the region. A revisit of the Mark I policy is also needed to address Atropens and include requirements for periodic update training.

**PARAMEDIC PROTOCOLS** – The Pediatric Protocols were reviewed by Dr. Yuknek and her comments are being added to the final draft. The document will be posted on the website for review once finished. Adjustments and corrections will be needed before the final version is approved by the REMAC. The plan is to have the submitted to the SEMAC for the May meetings.

**HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)** – The new Trauma Reporting form is being rolled out in some of the Hudson Valley Region counties. There are a number of disaster drills coming up this spring involving hospitals. There was a request to have the Area Trauma Centers' PAC systems linked to Westchester Medical Center to speed the sharing of electronic records.

**HUDSON VALLEY / WESTCHESTER HELICOPTER COMMITTEE** – The last meeting was held after the last REMAC meeting. The Air Medical Service (AMS) survey announcement was only received by the Program Agency recently. The survey will take place March through May. While the helicopter services will be expected to complete the survey forms, the Program Agency will also be pulling PCRs to follow-up with the agencies regarding their input. Dr. Stuhlmueller would like to revisit re-adding the language regarding AMS transport indications for critical medical conditions (i.e. stroke and cardiac) to the Inter-regional AMS Guidelines. This move was very contentious with the Hudson Valley REMAC and is expected to engender a lot of discussion once again.

**NOTICES OF INTENT** – Several PAD notices were received since the last meeting:

APPLICANT	CITY	SERVICE TYPE	DATE
Trump Plaza	New Rochelle	Business	2/4/2008
Trump Park Condominium	Shrub Oak	Other	2/4/2008
Brae Burn Country Club	Purchase	Recreational Facility	2/4/2008
Westchester BMW, Inc	White Plains	Retail Setting	2/21/2008
Hudson Scenic Studios	Yonkers	Business	2/21/2008



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**APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS (I.e. Albuterol, Mark I, EMTD)** - No applications for special permissions were received.

### OLD BUSINESS

**CPAP Studies** – Harrison EMS was added to the CPAP study being conducted at Port Chester-Rye-Rye Brook VAC. In addition to a notice of intent, a letter of support from the Service Medical Director, Dr. Haydock, was provided. Ray Cordi will provide a presentation of the data collected from the Empress CPAP study at the next meeting in March.

**12-Lead EKG Receiving/Routing Station** – Discussion regarding setting up a meeting to review how the LifePak receiving station is working at Westchester Medical Center and how it's routing capabilities might be used in the region to send 12 lead EKGs to other hospitals for the ALS agencies.

**Greater Westchester EMS Conference** – The planning for the EMS Conference is coming along well. The conference is to be held in Empire City in Yonkers on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Airport Exercise** – The plans for the large-scale disaster exercise on May 3, 2008, at the Westchester County Airport are moving along. Anyone with questions regarding the plans should contact Matt Peloso in OEM. The Regional EMS Office can provide his phone number. The airport wants 155 victims, as this is based on the highest capacity plane that lands there. A county-sponsored moulage class to provide moulage for the event is being planned.

**Diversions** – Hospitals diversions continue to be requested frequently. Discussion regarding the report from DES and whether or not it can show the data linked to specific hospitals. Up to now specific data has only been shared with the hospital it affects. Michael Volk will be asked how the information can be shared.

Discussion regarding the responsibility of nursing homes to better triage patients for hospital transport. Concerns that they are improperly requesting 911 ambulances to take non-acute patients to hospital ERs and thereby overwhelming the ERs.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Medical Director Change** – Empire State Ambulance has filled a notice of change of Service Medical Director. Dr. Heidi Cordi is now serving as their Medical Director.

**Hospital Drills** – There will be a number of hospital drills happening this spring and summer. The drill in May will involve most, if not all, the hospitals in the county and the greater Hudson Valley Region and revolve around a hurricane scenario. The drill in June will involve hospitals statewide and be for pandemic flu.

**Papal Visit** – The Pope will be visiting the New York City area in April and will be in Yonkers on April 14<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. Security has been very tight and specific plans have not been released.

**Next Meeting** – Session was adjourned at 10:20 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2008, at 9:00am.