



W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C General Meeting Minutes - February 23, 2009

Date: February 23, 2009
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. Joseph Ponticiello
Dr. Richard Marino
Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis
Dr. David Goldwag
Dr. Tim Haydock

AFFILIATION:

Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry
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

Present
Absent
Absent
Absent
Present
Present
Absent
Present
Present
Present
Present
Absent

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
Beth Sanger
Dr. Brian Doran
Joseph Bilotto
Gilbert Styles
Sam Lubin
Ted Tully
Anthony Sutton
Daniel Olmoz
Malcolm Dixon
Joshua Stillman
Jeff Casas
Dr. Michael Guttenberg
Dr. Erik Larsen
Clint Thornton

Empress EMS
North Salem VAC
Greenwich Hospital
Harrison EMS
Hudson Valley Paramedics
Ossining VAC
Westchester Medical Center
WCDES
WCDES / Regional EMS Office
Transcare
Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry
Port Chester/Rye/Ryebrook EMS
St. Joseph's Medical Center
WPHC / LNNY / Stat Flight
Mohegan VAC

MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by Chair Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis. It was determined that a quorum was present. Minutes from the December 15, 2008 and January 26, 2009 meetings were disseminated to the members. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

SEMAC

In Dr. Haydock's absence, Program Agency Coordinator, Daniel Olmoz was asked to report on the activities of the SEMAC at its last meeting on February 17th:

- It was mentioned that there was some discussion during the state ALS protocol review and approval process indicating that regions should include all medications that EMS personnel may encounter during interfacility transports into their respective regional ALS protocol drug formularies.



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This precipitated a lengthy discussion in regard to oversight and coordination of interfacility transports. There was some belief that the state was moving forward with state-wide interfacility transport guidelines yet others suggested that it may be of benefit for the REMAC to consider looking into the complexities of the matter. It was decided that a technical advisory group be formed to begin reviewing the feasibility of regional coordination of interfacility transports.

- It was mentioned that there are regulations being developed that would allow ALS personnel to monitor transfusions and hang blood products during interfacility transports. Draft proposals have been distributed to SEMAC, STAC, SEMSCO, and emergency departments for comment.

- There was a brief presentation on Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia in an effort to bring attention to the number of pediatric cases existing in the state and how the use of corticosteroids could be a life saving measure for those in crisis. It was suggested that this topic be considered for upcoming CME offerings.

- It was mentioned that the CDC Trauma Triage Protocol released in January 2009 are now available at www.cdc.gov/fieldtriage. CME credits are available to EMS providers.

- There was some discussion regarding emergency department overcrowding and it was mentioned that the DOH will begin conducting site visits to departments this year.

SUBCOMMITTEES

PROTOCOLS – Dr. Cordi reported on the following:

Vasopressin – should be considered for removal from the protocols as there is a lack of improved outcome evidence and it has not been FDA approved for use in cardiac arrest in intravenous form.

Prehospital hypothermia post cardiac arrest – Additional review is needed of available data to better determine if there is any benefit to field use.

It was reported by D. Olmoz that the paramedic protocol roll-out materials were under development by the REMSCO Training and Education Committee. The Committee is scheduled to meet on March 6, 2009 and a status report should be forthcoming.

It was again reported that a determination is needed in regard to the SEMAC recommendation that the pediatric infusion volume be changed from 20cc/kg to 5 to 10cc/kg under the Pediatric Non-Traumatic Shock Protocol. It was suggested that clarification is needed from the SEMAC in this regard. Additionally, the Protocol Subcommittee will review supporting documentation and report back to the REMAC.

STEMI – Dr. DeRobertis reported that a preliminary draft protocol was initiated by the TAG for discussion purposes and a copy of the draft protocol was made available to the members. This prompted a discussion about transporting STEMI patients directly to cardiac interventional centers. It was mentioned that other regions have already implemented similar programs. Several suggestions were made for coordination of such a program including allowing for transports outside county borders. It was suggested that the TAG communicate with cardiac interventional centers that may receive patients for their feedback and to make them aware of possible implementation. It was suggested that a tentative implementation date of May 1, 2009 be established and that the TAG reconvene to finalize its report.

EVALUATION – It was reported that the Regional EMS Office received a letter of appeal of a previous determination made by the REMAC. It was mentioned that the letter contained language indicating the involved party was requesting to meet with the Regional EMS Council. It was noted that the accepted process would require that the appeal be filed with the State. A letter has been sent to the party to clarify the request.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC) – It was mentioned that the meeting scheduled for November was cancelled. The committee is exploring ways to conduct business in addition to its regular meetings.



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HUDSON VALLEY / WESTCHESTER HELICOPTER COMMITTEE – A meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2009 at the Hudson Valley Regional EMS Office. There was a brief discussion about the recent changes to the Hudson Valley's ALS protocols resulting from differences in pediatric RSI capabilities existing between medevac units covering that region. It was questioned if delays would occur in situations where if it is known that the patient is younger than 14 and the call is assigned to other medevac units capable of pediatric RSI.

There was a brief discussion about the status of any changes that may be implemented as a result of the recent increase in the number of medevac accidents. It was mentioned that there have been no new federal or state regulations enacted in this regard as of this date.

EMS STUDIES

It was mentioned that information pertaining to several EMS studies was distributed to the members for their review. There was a brief discussion regarding some of the findings of the OPALS studies especially in regard to basic life support as compared to advanced life support.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AT DOBBS FERRY

The technical advisory committee will be meeting again prior to the next REMAC meeting to review and discuss a letter of response received from the NYS DOH.

HOSPITAL DIVERSION

It was mentioned that hospital diversion reports would be distributed to the members for review.

NOTICES OF INTENT

No PAD notices were received since the last meeting.

APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS (I.e. Albuterol, Mark I, EMTD)

No notices were received since the last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

It was mentioned that there was discussion at the SEMSCO meeting in regard to Senate Bill 1729 which is accompanied by Assembly Bill 1427. It is believed that this bill, if passed, would remove the previous two year statute of limitations on medical litigation claims. This may result in a large increase in malpractice premiums causing many physicians to avoid participating in the EMS system because of the associated increased liability.

It was mentioned that the results of a recent survey given by the SEMAC Quality Improvement Committee showed that there is a lack of awareness on the part of EMS providers that a revised QI policy manual has been developed. Regions are being asked to support programs to increase QI activities and hospital participation.

It was mentioned that Ed Wronski reported to the SEMAC and SEMSCO that it appears that the State EMS budget will remain intact. However, it is expected that greater scrutiny will take place on overall spending.



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It was briefly mentioned that currently 14 paramedics affiliated with Hudson Valley Paramedics have completed the regional credentialing process and the Regional EMS Office was awaiting a status report on 6 additional paramedics that needed to complete the oral exam.

An announcement was made that the annual Regional EMS Awards Ceremony has been scheduled for May 21, 2009.

NEXT MEETING – Session was adjourned at 10:42 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2009 at 9:00am.

PLEASE NOTE: A web cast of this meeting is available on-demand and may be viewed at <http://www.wremasco.org/>

Respectfully submitted by Daniel Olmoz