

Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee
January 16, 2008

Chef's Restaurant

Minutes from the November 28, 2007 meeting were previously distributed via e-mail and hard copy.

Motion 08-1

Attendance: See attached

Correspondence: J. Takats

- 11/27/08 Letter from Attica FD to United Memorial Medical Center noting multiple complaints from ambulance crews of disrespectful and rude reception at the ED
- 11/27/07 Email from Jeff Myers to Dr. Joseph Takats concerning the revelation of the complex requirements to make modifications to regional protocols
- 12/03/07 Letter from Dr. Joseph Takats to Dr. Richard Daines in support of expeditious approval of Craig Cooley to SEMAC from Southwestern Council.
- 12/11/07 DOH Statement of deficiency for failure to submit a complete recertification application for an EMS Operating Certificate issued to Ellington Volunteer Fire Dept Inc from Ed Mager
- 12/11/07 Letter from DOH, Ed Mager Letter of deficiency to Ischua Fire Department of incomplete certification of Medical director verification form and roster
- 12/18/07 Email from Dr. RM Patel to all ALS agencies regarding notification of recall of the Bayer Ascensia Contour Glucometer because unit may show higher blood glucose reading than actual.
- 12/22/07 Email, no source, notice of Cindy McCloud's fathers death
- 12/20/07 Email from Cathi Peters, Regional Co-ordinator for STEMS, to providers in Southern Tier, notification of 2nd annual STEMS Spring training 3/28-29/08
- 12/26/07 Email from County of Erie Health Dept. notification of recall by Merck and Co of certain lots of flu vaccine
- 12/26/07 Email from DOH - health advisory re possible psittacosis in birds purchased from PetSmart and pet stores
- 12/26/07 Email from Bob Yungfleisch to Dr. Joseph Takats requesting clarification of Darien Medical Services requiring new agency code or new CON, referred to Ed Mager
- 12/28/07 Letter from DOH, Ed Wronski to Dr. Joseph Takats, WREMAC Chair requesting that the Town of Tonawanda EMU and Twin City Ambulance Company submit their changes in chest pain protocol to the WREMAC and then the SEMAC for approval
- 1/01/08 Email Jeff Myers to Dr. Joseph Takats with proposed changes in CPAP and waveform capnography
- 1/02/08 Email Scott Wander to Dr. Joseph Takats communication to all ECMc directed EMS providers reminding providers of unscrupulous sales people and ECMC's requirement that in order to purchase defibrillator, saline pours, IV administration

supplies and other related products they must have a written prescription from the medical director prior to purchasing that equipment

1/02/08 Email from E. Mager to Dr. Joseph Takats reminding the WREMAC that webcasting will be a required deliverable and to include costs in budget

1/02/08 Letter from Catherine Peters, Regional Co-ordinator for STEMS, to Dr. Joseph Takats notifying the WREMAC about a rogue EMT who is operating in the Southern Tier.

SEMAC / SEMSCO REPORT:

Attached

WREMAC Chair Report: J. Takats

Nurse Advisory Committee –

Cathi Peters from STEMS (Southern Tier EMS) reported that Donna Kahm is going to be looking into a possible chairman for this committee.

Prehospital Advisory Committee – G. Gill

After some research, G. Gill discovered that the last meeting of the PHAC was held on March 2006. He also found the operational guidelines for the committee. He suggests that the membership be re-created by contacting the EMS Coordinators from each county, and send them a list of the old membership, to find out who they would like to re-appoint.

Subcommittee Reports:

Disaster Committee – J. Teuscher

Dr. Teuscher suggests that a new mission statement be developed for the Disaster Committee. New tasks need to be determined. Looking for suggestions. Due to the new layout of the regional councils, this may be difficult to continue the committee as it has in the past.

ALS Protocol Committee – S. Lakomy

In Dr. Lakomy's absence, E. Mager gave the report. The website for the WREMAC is www.WREMAC.com.

QI / QA – R. Martin/M. Kenyon/C. Cooley

Ed Mager reported that the new Quality Improvement books for pre hospital care are available.

Dr. Martin reported that there have not been any reports or issues. As the program agencies get up and running, the committee will work to coordinate with them.

Equipment Committee – C. Cooley

Dr. Cooley distributed handouts, which were previously distributed via e-mail.

Discussion pertaining to the bleeding protocol; when the clotting agents, such as QuikClot are used, the wound must be elevated and direct pressure must be applied. It is not intended to be applied and left to work on it's own.

Discussion evolved regarding whether this policy is mandatory or permissive. It is viewed and intended to be permissive. It is intended to be added to BLS protocol, and must state severe bleeding.

Dr. Cooley stated that he would like to get this through this committee in order to get it with the other protocols to the state.

Formal in house training is necessary when this item is purchased. This training should be part of the policy.

Much discussion followed. The Health Department guests noted that BLS Protocols could not be altered and suggested the Committee address these products as WREMAC policies.

Research and Education – J. Myers

Ad Hoc SSI – J. Teuscher

Ad Hoc 12 Lead EKG:

Ed Mager reported that 49 agencies have still not completed agency registrations.

A PCI Subcommittee has been formed because there is no official state policy on pre-hospital referrals for PCI centers. Recommended that the subcommittee continue to function.

Ad Hoc PCI – J. Borton

Dr. Borton distributed a report that he had generated. The PCI committee can suggest an interim recommendation, based upon the accepted WREMAC or BLS guidelines. With on-line medical control, the doctor takes on 100% responsibility for direction. If a patient directs to be taken to a specific facility, then they are to be taken to that facility. Handout was reviewed, Dr. Borton will modify it.

The intended policy is simply intended to bridge the gap until the State makes the necessary designations and regulations. There are currently 4 PCI centers in WNY. The PCI subcommittee will ultimately issue a policy statement and guidelines for prehospital agencies and all affected Hospitals. NYSDOH BEMS wants to be reasonable and logical.

Ed Mager questioned whether the policy would address Hospitals and prehospital agencies having contractual relationships. Discussion ensued and a letter will be sent to Hospitals claiming to have PCI capability, requesting commitment to 24/7, ED bypass, rescue Cardiothoracic surgery etc. An explanation of the reason for this letter and its intent will be included. Dr. Young will assist.

Motion #08-02

Unfinished Business

Standing Orders Protocol – J. Myers

No action until Dr. Myers is available.

New Business:

- Darien EMS Inc. upgrade to ILS from EMTD and name change
- Darien requesting contingency approval awaiting EMS Agency Code Designation and NYS certification
- Darien NOI EPI for Auto Injector
- Angelica Hose #1 and Rescue Squad Medical Director Change from Dr. Jay Ellie to Dr. Frank Edwards.
- Belfast Rescue Squad Medical Director Change from Dr. Jay Ellie to Dr. Frank Edwards.
- Adams Fire Co. Inc. Medical Director Change from Dr. Lloyd Brown to Dr. Joseph Takats

Motion 08-4

Photographs of accident scenes have been required in the past to assist ED physicians in assessing mechanism and severity of injury. Some agencies no longer provide photos due to the Polaroid unavailability. Some agencies use digital technology but many Hospitals cannot download the image. The membership was asked if photos were still important. The general consensus was that photos are still very important. The WREMAC will advise agencies of this and advise receiving Hospitals to possess equipment for downloading images.

Discussed conducting WREMAC meetings via teleconferencing at remote sites. Certain facilities have this capability, and it would be a good way to allow individuals who have to travel from further distances to be included in the meetings. Ed Mager reported that the DOH has teleconferencing capabilities, he will check on it and report on it at the next meeting. This is NOT web casting.

Elections - There was much confusion as to who are true appointed members of the WREMAC, physicians who were designated by their Hospitals and approved by their councils. After being approved at the WREMAC level, they then need to be approved at the regional council level.

Open Nominations were then called for. Dr. Kenyon immediately called to table the elections of WREMAC officers until it can be determined who the voting members are. Elections should be held in November, and holding them now would throw off the cycle. No changes will be made until 11/08.

Motion 08-3

Dr. Billittier commented that the WREMAC needs to engage in discussions with the Regional EMS Councils (REMSCOS). The REMSCO needs to approve the doctors that are voted on for the WREMAC.

G. Gill noted that he has concerns with the representatives as well. The councils need to clarify the doctor's statuses. Dr. Billittier requested that the WEREMSC be sent the rules for governance. Dr. Takats distributed the official rules. The WREMAC ByLaws need to be approved by each REMSCO. Much discussion regarding the WREMAC ByLaws.

Dr. Young reported that as of last night (1/15) that NFMCC would be closing their Adolescent and Pediatric Psychiatric units. There was discussion regarding closing the adult side. Concern as to what will happen to the children that need care? They will be the same as with any other ED.

Under 65, BryLin cannot accept Medicaid. The next closest facility is Strong Memorial. A definitive date has not been established as of this meeting. Dr. Young will contact each doctor to notify him or her once a date has been established.

J. Adolf distributed the Aspirin Protocol, and requested each doctor to please review it.

S. Wander requested Dr. Takats to appoint one doctor from the WREMAC to serve on the interview committee for the selection of the Regional Coordinator for the new program agency. Dr. Cooley kindly offered his services. Thank you.

**Motion to adjourn: M. Kenyon
Approved.**

*The next meeting of the WREMAC will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 3:00
at Chef's.*

Please make every effort to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph R. Takats III, D.O., Chairman