

## **Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee**

**The WREMAC met on November 16, 2006 at Chef's Restaurant, Buffalo, NY.**

**A motion was passed accepting the minutes from the September 20<sup>th</sup>, meeting. Teuscher/Myers**

**Attendance: See enclosure**

**Correspondence: J. Takats**

- A copy of a letter from Edward Mager to the Orchard Park Fire District regarding their unacceptable Plan of Correction to the Statement of Deficiencies that was issued to them for failing to renew their Controlled Substance License on time. The second Plan of Correction was submitted and is under review by the DOH.
- A copy of a letter from Edward Mager to the Ripley Hose Company with a Statement of Deficiencies for failing to renew their Ambulance Certificate on time.
- A letter from Rochester General Hospital regarding their ability to treat AMI patients.
- A letter from the REMAC Chair to hospitals in the region requesting information on their delegate to the REMAC.
- A letter was sent from the REMAC Chair to ALS agencies on the handling of blood specimens in the prehospital setting.

Greg Skibitsky provided an update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Program Agency. The DOH sent correspondence to over 100 agencies inviting them to submit a RFP to the Southwestern EMS Council to be the Program Agency of the Western Region. They are due by December 4<sup>th</sup> at which time the committee members will submit 3 proposals for the Big Lakes, Southwestern and Wyoming Erie Regional Councils to pick from. Then it will take about 3 months to get the contract through the DOH, which should be completed sometime in March of 2007. The contract ends in July of 2007 so the first contract will be a short one.

Greg also reported that extra funding was provided to the three regional councils by the DOH to help cover expenses for items that were previously done by WREMS. The Wyoming-Erie Council is hiring a secretary for the Council and will also make services available to the REMAC.

### **Committees:**

**Nurse Advisory**-No Report

**Prehospital Advisory**-No Report

**Disaster**-No Report

**ALS Protocol**-Dr. Lakomy reported that the printing company was selected and there will be a draft in a couple of weeks. It was delayed due to the addition of Chest Decompression for Intermediate EMTs. No more changes can be made to the protocols at this point. C. McCloud stated that the draft needed some corrections in terms of page numbers. Dr. Lakomy stated that there should not have been any changes to the page

numbers and agreed to contact Valerie in the DOH Central Office to discuss this. The Protocols may be printed and delivered to the Region by January of 2007.

There was discussion as to how the Protocols would be rolled out to the agencies. Walt Reisner discussed the presentation that was developed by the Southwestern Regional Council. In the slide presentation the summary of the change is listed on one side of the slide and the actual Protocol is on the other side so they can both be viewed at the same time. The presentation is posted on the Trans Am web page. W. Reisner invited everyone to review and comment on the Presentation. The presentation would be given in each region with a Medical Control Physician involved and then the agencies could use a web-based approach to train their providers. The group felt that there should be some way to track completion and comprehension. Using a test as in the past would be the best way to do it. Dr. Lakomy stated that Randy Crist gave him a CD with the test questions on it and requested that members provide test questions to him. Walt Reisner distributed CDs of his tutorial to WREMAC members.

**Quality Assurance-**There was discussion as to the lack of a Regional QA Program. Dr. Takats pointed out that the Program Agency is required per their deliverables to meet with each agency multiple times each year. They are also required to supervise and oversee whatever the REMAC wants done. With the new Program Agency the relationship should be “hand in glove” with the REMAC. In other areas of the State the Program Agencies credential providers and keep track of who completes the requirements and is currently on-line. Dr. Myers stated that this is a requirement of the REMAC but the Program Agency should provide the resources and manpower. W. Reisner stated that the State Council at their December meeting should approve the new QA/QI manual. The document should be complete for distribution by the first quarter of 2007. The manual highlights the importance of QA/QI and the need for EMS providers to be active participants.

**Equipment-**Dr. Myers is working on an updated list to be reviewed and approved by the REMAC. Greg Skibitsky stated that the REMAC does not have to approve anything that can be purchased over the counter. Dr. Teuscher agreed but felt that it had to be within the parameters of the Protocols.

**Research and Education-** No Report

**Selective Spinal Immobilization Protocol (SSI)-**Dr. Teuscher reported that the SEMAC approved Protocol was for providers from the BLS through Paramedic level. The DOH will not distribute the Protocol until the educational component is completed. Dr. Takats stated that the Regional Protocol is similar but was not intended for BLS providers and has a more comprehensive neurological assessment.

**12-Lead EKG-**Dr. Teuscher stated that our WREMAC is requiring that by January 1, 2007 all ALS agencies have ability to perform and transmit a 12 lead EKG within 30 minutes of presentation for a suspected chest pain patient. This can be accomplished through mutual aid or arrival at the hospital if the agency does not have the equipment. If an agency cannot complete the requirement they must apply to the REMAC for a hardship waiver for an extension. Scott Wander discussed the study that was done by the

DOH stating that 0% of BLS services had capability to complete a 12 Lead EKG. Cindy McCloud stated that the Western NY agencies were not included due to lack of Program Agency in the region. Wander's information was correct in that 0% of BLS agencies reported ability to obtain a 12 lead EKG. Dr. Takats stated that he would like to see ALS do the 12 leads first and allow it to be voluntary for BLS. Dr. Myers suggested that if an ST elevation is noted the EMS crew can contact medical direction and/or encourage the patient to select a facility with angioplasty capabilities. Dr. Teuscher made a motion for an addendum/clarification that if the machine or paramedic interpret ST elevation the provider must contact medical control for direction. W. Reisner stated that a disadvantage is that Basics may tend to treat the machine and not the patient. Another disadvantage is the inability to add more hours for training to the Basic EMT course. Dr. Teuscher stated that this could be addressed in the roll out of the ALS protocols during the first quarter of 2007. We will analyze compliance for the first 3 months of 2007, identify issues and modify the requirement accordingly.

**Introduction of guests:** Tom Luka stated that as part of their education paramedic students must attend a REMAC meeting so at each meeting there will be some students in attendance from the Paramedic Program at ECC.

Dr. Young reported that Mercy Ambulatory Care Center has met the Conditions of Participation for a 2-bed hospital and will be accepting patients by ambulance in the near future.

#### **New Business**

W. Reisner reported that they met with ECMC regarding turnaround times and that ECMC has implemented several changes to try to decrease delays at their facility. He said that the commitment by hospital administration has made a big difference and that turnaround times for his agency at ECMC have greatly improved. He expressed his appreciation for ECMC's efforts.

Dr. Takats stated that Dr. Patel is doing a great job by staying involved with his EMS agencies and providers. He expressed concern that some medical directors may not be working directly with their agencies and encouraged physicians to become more involved with the agencies that they supervise as medical directors.

There was a motion to adjourn – Teuscher/Lakomy

**The next meeting is on January 17, 2007 at 3:00pm at Chef's.**

Respectfully submitted,

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