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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

Base Station Physicians' Committee
Judd Glasser, M.D., Chairperson
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BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Members Present

Davis, M.D., Dan – UCSD/Mercy Air
Glasser, M.D., Judd – Tri-City
Grad, M.D., Michele – Palomar/Pomerado
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Palomar
Kramer, M.D., Mark – Sharp Memorial
Linnik, M.D., Bill – Sharp Grossmont
MacPherson, Gary – Co. Paramedics Agencies Comm.
Reilly, M.D., Ian – Scripps La Jolla
Schwartz, M.D., Brad – American Medical Response
Workman, R.N., Debi – Palomar College
Zahller, M.D., Steve – Scripps Mercy

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Royer, R.N., Diane
Smith, R.N., Susan
Stepanski, Barbara

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Guests Present

Aker, R.N., Donna Kelly – UCSD ROC
Anderson, R.N., Marilyn – Vista Fire
Barnes, R.N., Melanie – S.D. Med. Serv. Enterp.
Bourdon, R.N., Darlene – Scripps Mercy
Broyles, R.N., Linda – AMR/RCCP
Buono, M.D., Colleen – UCSD/Palomar College
Cerrone, R.N., Sharon – Mercy Air
Collins, R.N., Marissa – Tri-City
Conover, Bill – Camp Pendleton Fire
Dotson, R.N., Melody – UCSD
Eldridge, R.N., Leslie – Sharp Memorial
Foehr, Rick – EMSTA College
Howard, R.N., LuAnn – Scripps La Jolla
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Med. Serv. Enterprise
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City
Maxwell, Paul – AMR/NCTI
McNabb, Stephen – Mercy Air
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Sharp Grossmont
Mottet, R.N., Mary – S.D. Med. Serv. Enterprise
Murphy, R.N., Mary – CSA-17
Quinn, R.N., Michele – Children's
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Sharp Memorial
Ross, Alyssa – City of San Diego
Scott, Chris – North County Fire
Seabloom, R.N., Lynne – Oceanside Fire
Steen, R.N., Pam – Mercy Air
Voigt, Michelle – UCSD
Vogt, Rick – San Marcos Fire

I. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judd Glasser, M.D., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Michele Grad, M.D., Seconded by Steve Zahller, M.D., to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

New County EMS Staff: Susan Smith, R.N., and LeAnne Lovett-Floom, R.N., recently joined County EMS staff as Quality Assurance Specialists. Ms. Smith will be working on the prehospital side and Ms. Lovett-Floom on the disaster side.

Sharp Memorial: Congratulations to Sharp Memorial for their new emergency room and hospital.

Flu Season: An upward increase in emergency department visits occurred about two weeks ago, accompanied by an uptick in influenza isolates. Both have returned to lower levels now but walk-in patients appear to be keeping emergency rooms busy with respiratory and respiratory with fever issues. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has stated that it's too early in the flu season to know whether or not the vaccine this year matches the isolates.

Hospital Capacity Plan: The Hospital Capacity Plan has been distributed throughout the County. Dr. Haynes encouraged hospital personnel to review the Plan. County EMS hopes that each hospital will involve their entire hospital to find solutions to crowding and implement the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) overcrowding guidelines, moving admitted patients out of the emergency department quickly, moving elective procedures later in the week from Monday, and facilitating earlier in-patient discharges before noon. The important point is to try to avoid off-load delays this year. County EMS has been reviewing how many patients are being held in emergency departments in the mornings. This information should be passed along to satellite hospitals.

STEMI System Update: Door-to-balloon times remain superb for activated cases from the field and outcome measures are within the range expected for excellent performance.

Bypass Statistics: The number of ALS (Advanced Life Support) transports has been very stable recently and the number of patients bypassed from their hospital of choice is very low as well as the total number of hours hospitals have been on bypass.

Good Samaritan Ruling: About a month ago the Supreme Court of California issued a four to three decision, that an individual assisting people at the scene of an accident is only protected for medical or first aid care, not rescue activities. The Supreme Court ruled that Section 1799.102 applies only to emergency care and that pulling someone out of a car is not medical care.

IV. BASE HOSPITAL NURSE COORDINATOR'S REPORT (Cheryl Graydon, R.N.)

Results from a Prehospital Patient Care Records Focus Audit will be presented at the PAC meeting this date. The Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators are working with Barbara Stepanski, County EMS, in getting the audit completed.

V. POLST (Physician Order for Life Sustaining Treatment) (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

The POLST law took affect January 1, 2009. Section A at the top of the POLST form is where the patient fills out whether or not they want to be resuscitated or not. Section B lists medical interventions choices; Comfort Measures Only, Limited Additional Interventions and Full Treatment. Section C is for Antibiotics, Section D for Artificially Administered Nutrition and Section E, Summary of Medical Condition and Signatures. The POLST form is also used in nursing homes and hospitals.

VI. ROC (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium) UPDATE (Dan Davis, M.D.)

The Hypertonic Saline Study underwent a voluntary suspension based on concerns from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) but has since been given the go ahead for the traumatic brain injury side; however, no new information has been received regarding the shock side of ROC. ROC is beginning to work with agencies to make sure their paramedics go on line and do their re-training. The re-training goes over the revised criteria focused on the head injury side and anybody with hypotension. The program is only for stable patients with blunt head trauma for now.

The City of San Diego is in the middle of training for the Cardiac Arrest Study and hopefully the program will be up and running by the end of January or the middle of February, 2009. There will be a site visit from the National Institute of Health (NIH) next week.

VII. MERCY AIR AEROMEDICAL SAFETY ISSUES (Stephen McNabb)

Stephen McNabb, Southern California Program Aviation Manager was introduced. Mr. McNabb has been a pilot for fifteen years. The following are highlight comments from Mr. McNabb's presentation:

- Mercy Air was acquired by Air Methods Corporation in 1997.
- Began in Littleton, Colorado in 1980 and is now the largest air ambulance provider in the U.S. and fourth largest helicopter operator in the world.
- There have been over 100,000 patients flown.
- Air Methods has bases in 42 states.
- There are 99 community bases and 155 hospital bases.

- There are 134 community-based aircraft and 180 hospital-based aircraft.
- California has 56 HEMS (Hospital Emergency Medical Services) bases with 82 helicopters.
- Nationally HEMS has 699 bases, 840 helicopters, and 400,000 patients flown.
- HEMS safety is largely regulated at a federal level.
- Aircraft accidents and incidents are jurisdiction of the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board).
- From 2002-2004, 55 HEMS accidents occurred, killing 54 and seriously injuring 19.
- In 2006, there were two HEMS accidents with just four fatalities.
- In 2007, there were two HEMS accidents with just seven fatalities.
- In 2008, through October, there have been seven accidents with 28 fatalities.
- From 1991-2008, pilot error (CAT) was responsible for 27% of accidents, pilot error of 18% of accidents where the unit struck an object and 27% pilot error on procedures. Mechanical failure accounted for 22%.
- The NTSB requires all HEMS flights be conducted under Part 135, requires a flight risk evaluation for all HEMS missions, requires HEMS companies to use full-time flight dispatch, and requires the use of TAWS (Terrain Awareness and Warning System).
- Approximately 50% of accidents occur at night.

VIII. OPTIONS FOR INTRANASAL DRUG DELIVERY (Judd Glasser, M.D.)

ACTION: Deferred to a later BSPP meeting.

IX. REVIEW OF PROTOCOLS FOR 2009-2010

The following protocols were revised and some revision suggestions were made:

S-120, S-121, S-122, S-123, S-124, S-126, S-127, S-129, S-130, S-131, S-132, S-136, S-137, S-138, S-139, S-140, S-141 and S-142.

P-104a (ALS Skills List) was also reviewed.

**X. HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THREATS (HACOT)
(Linda Rosenberg, R.N.)**

Dr. Haynes reported that HACOT has decided that the committee is too big and has been trying to do too much so recent discussion has been on changing HACOT's focus and meeting less often. They also want to rely on the Disaster Council to discuss to address those type of issues.

**XI. SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL
(Linda Rosenberg, R.N.)**

HPP (Hospital Preparedness Program) Year Seven is starting. Most of the contracts with hospitals have been signed and returned to County EMS so hospitals are beginning to spend their allocated funds.

The State-wide Golden Guardian drill in November, 2008 was a success with the County opening the Medical Operations Center (MOC). The Medical Reserve Corps helped set up for surge capacity and an alternate care site was set up in San Marcos for patients to be brought to. The State also opened a 200-bed hospital in Riverside. Participants in the drill were forced to abandon their cell phones, land-line phones and Web EOC but amateur radio staff helped out a great deal. The nursing homes have developed regional coordinators with 20-30 nursing homes under the jurisdiction of one regional coordinator and their participation is a first.

Ms. Rosenberg volunteered to bring a list of drill dates to the next BSPC meeting.

XII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Dr. Haynes will present a STEMI summary some time in the future.

An Autopulse presentation by John Davidson, Chula Vista Fire for March, 2009.

Pediatric protocols should be presented in February, 2009.

UCSD has a Journal Club and Dan Davis, M.D. is hosting it on January 27, 2009 with an EMS focus beginning at 6:00 p.m. Will be held at McGregor's Grill near San Diego Qualcomm Stadium.

XIII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 11:00 a.m. at the Sharp Spectrum Auditorium, 8695 Spectrum Center Court, Kearny Mesa, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS