

CASAC Meeting Minutes – March 16th

Virtual meeting – 1300 hours

Attendees:

Chuck Boone – Pro Care	Pat Gainer - MIEMSS
Scott Legore – SOCALR	Jimmy Pixton - AAA
Jeff Huggins – MIEMSS	Mike Moretti - Keystone
Sarah Sette – MIEMSS	Rob Weiss – Pulse
Tyler Stroh – Med Care	Mark Buchholtz – Pro Care
Marty Johnson – SOCALR	Will Rosenberg - Butler
Jeannie Abramson – MIEMSS	Bev Witmer - MIEMSS
Donald Scott – Med Star	Adam Malizio - MIEMSS
Cory Skidmore – Hart to Heart	Anna Gainor - AMR
Dr. Tim Chizmar – MIEMSS	Teddy Baldwin - Lifestar
Matt Larrabee – Freestate	Cyndy Wright Johnson – MIEMSS
Wesley Melson – Lifestar	Rich Keyes
Scott Barquin - SOCALR	
Caller #1 – Jimmy and Bobby Harsh – County Medical	
Caller #2 – John Damiani – Christiana	

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rosenberg

January Meeting Minutes – Any additions or corrections to the minutes? No response
Motion by Mr. Buchholtz and second by Mr. Baldwin to approve the minutes.
No opposition – motion passes.

State Medical Director’s Report – Dr. Chizmar

- Thanks to everyone – this has been a tough time for commercial services and you have used some out of the box ideas to maintain the system. It does not go unnoticed.
- Protocol Changes – upcoming for July 2022
 - Simple revision will enable the use of Tylenol for both pain and fever and decrease the age to 3 months on the recommendation of PEMAC
 - Addition to the General Patient Care Protocol for critically unstable patients, which says essentially to treat the patient before you start moving.
 - King LT protocol will be broadened so that services will have the choice of LMA, I Gel, Air Q or King LT at the discretion of your medical director.
 - Removal of initiation of protective hypothermia from the ROSC protocol
 - Addition of TXA to ALS pharmacology for patients with traumatic hypovolemic shock. 1 gram in 100 ccs over 10 minutes. Mortality benefit is up to 30%.
 - Adding a ventricular assist protocol for the transport of patients with these devices.
 - The Direct to Triage protocol is being added.

- Adding Droperidol – this medication is more effective for a bunch of things. We will be leaving Halperidol in the protocols as a backup in case of medication shortages.
- Removal of consult requirement for Sodium Bicarb and along with that revising PEA/Asystole algorithm to tailor the use of Calcium and Bicarb to specific patients.
- In the process of writing scripts and recording presentations with the goal of release of May 15th so everyone has six weeks to complete.
- The Medical Director’s Symposium will be held virtually on April 13th. All 911 and Commercial Services’ QA Officers and Medical Directors are invited to attend. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Corey Slovis from the Nashville Fire Department. Dr. Delbridge, Dr. Levy and Dr. Anders will all be presenting. I also asked the AGs to provide a brief presentation on legal issues that folks have been asking about.
- I would like to highlight some medication shortages – D10, D50, prefilled Epi, and Saline flushes.
 - D10 and D50 has been a real issue in National Capital Region (specifically Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties)
- New protocols (2023) – a couple of presentations 10 days ago at the first Protocol Review committee of the year.
 - Research protocol for PG County on pediatric Midazolam. Dosing based on age range instead of weight based.
 - Proposal for the use of low dose Ketamine for pacing and cardioversion and dosing Lidocaine for pediatrics with an IO in place.
- Here are some updates on legislation:
 - Favorable review for the vaccination bill and looks like this will move the sunset date from 2023 to 2025 for flu and COVID vaccinations by paramedics.
 - Medicaid reimbursement bill that will increase reimbursement by \$25/year for next eight years is still being debated at this time.
 - Bill that would allow Medicare and Medicaid study looking into the area of reimbursement.
- Meg Stein, a Talbot County paramedic, has been hired as the protocol administrator and she started on March 2nd. Her email is mstein@miemss.org

Any Questions – None

Dr. Chizmar – Awaiting on response from the Board of Pharmacy on a question posed about the cooperative purchasing of medications to ensure it is within the law.

Jimmy Pixton – Epi, Lidocaine, Dopamine and Saline flushes are difficult to obtain. Not sure about TXA yet.

SOCALR Report - Marty Johnson

- Just started sending out renewal applications for this year. Looking to move to an all digital format this year.

- Wanted to make everyone aware of a new process with our bank, Truist, where we send a hyperlink that will allow you to pay your fees online.

QA Review/Data Input – Scott Legore

- Reminder – QA Officer course is now entirely online through the MIEMSS Online Training Center
- Scott Barquin continues to work with several services on data import issues
- One big change within Licensure – changed options for certification level. Previously, the choice for everyone getting an ePin was EMS-Other. This has been updated with several choices specific to commercial services. Registered Nurse, Commercial Non-Maryland licensed clinician (for helicopter paramedics with out of state services), Admin. Personnel and Medical Director. Scott Barquin is working to update all personnel currently in the system. You will not have to make the changes to existing personnel.
- A concern was brought to SOCALR from one hospital – they could not get copies of patient care reports from eMeds (report not submitted or did not upload correctly) so they requested the report from the service and were refused because of HIPAA. Reminder patient information, including patient care reports, can be exchanged between commercial services and receiving facilities.

Equipment Update – Scott Legore

- The revised ALS and BLS checklists have been sent out. These will go into effect with the July protocol updates. If any service needs these resent just let me know.
 - For BLS – changed language that allows for approved alternatives to the Res Q Vac
 - For ALS – changed language for D10/D50 – D10 is the preferred medication
 - Droperidol added – Halperidol removed
 - TXA added
 - Updated language for IV infusion pump
 - Added extraglottic airway set
- SOCALR is working on a grant program to help offset the cost of extraglottic airways. We recognize that commercial services are facing increasing costs, including labor and fuel costs, but we feel that the extraglottic airways are an important backup device so SOCALR is looking to provide some financial support. Look for more information in the future – target date is April 1st.

Question – Didn't Dr. Chizmar say Haldol could stay?

Answer from Dr. Chizmar – we will keep it in the protocol as a backup in case of medication shortage.

Non-EMS licensed drivers – 11 services with the approved waiver and there are 115 approved driver.

At last meeting, there was some discussion about services teaching other services EMS courses and Sarah reminded everyone of the MHEC restrictions. An update on this – some discussion

with MHEC if we could group multiple commercial ambulance services to form a consortium that would allow the services to teach classes to other services. That received a favorable response and needs to be further reviewed to see what changes need to be made and what the next steps are.

MH-CARS – We would like to determine what the next steps are for the system. Looking for thoughts on improving the system. A questionnaire was sent out – only received one response. Opening up for discussion at today’s meeting. No discussion or comments.

There has been a request for some data regarding response times for commercial services. SOCALR currently looking to see if we can pull this data from eMeds.

Question – Has there been an accusation that Medicaid patients receive longer ETAs?
Answer from Dr. Chizmar – some hospitals have questions extended ETAs for Medicaid patients however MIEMSS recognizes that there are multiple factors involved here and this data collection is the first step.

Clinician Services – Bev Witmer

A new cleaner EMS Online Training Center has been created.

- Demo on how hospital based personnel log into the system.
- Demo on the online training center.

PEMAC – Cyndy Wright Johnson

Four presentations at EMS Care and four presentations at MSFA conference. PEPP went really well in Oxford. We will be scheduling additional courses in the fall. Nine days left to submit award nominations.

SEMSAC – No update

MIH – No report

Old Business – None

New Business

Cory Skidmore – Hart to Heart – contacted by nurse who is working with an NGO to obtain expired/expiring EMS supplies to aid Ukraine. H2H will serve as the drop off point. Either office location.

Meeting Adjourned.