



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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MISSION STATEMENT

“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC)
Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting
Mary Meadows-Pitt R.N., Chair/Chris Wells, Vice-Chair
6255 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, CA 92120
Thursday, December 10, 2015

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Blacksberg, David – Hospital Assoc. SD/Imp. County
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Assoc. SD/Imp. County
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District 2
Mednick, Cheryl – American Red Cross
Wells, R.N. Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators

County Staff

Ameng, Diane
Smith, R.N., Susan
Wolchko, Janet (Recorder)

Agency Representatives

Broyles, Linda – RCCP
Forman, Kelly – Mercy Air
Hums, Jason – South Western College
McKee, Paul – Mercy Air
Rod, Rick – SD City EMS Rural Metro
Schmidt, Melissa – Mercy Air

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Meadows-Pitt, EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum of members was not present. Approval of the September 10, 2015 minutes will take place at the next meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

IV. OFF-LOAD ISSUES

- A. Susan Smith presented a draft letter that will be submitted to the Emergency Medical Oversight Committee (EMOC) addressing prehospital transport times and the commitment to addressing recommended steps to bring transparency to offload times and to prevent avoidable delays.
1. The letter is brought forward to the subcommittee for input as well as suggestions from emergency department (ED) manager's hospital directors and EMS agencies.
 2. EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee members recommended and discussed the following topics presented in the draft letter:
 - Official sign off and time stamp for the record of transferring the patient from EMS to the ED. (#1)
 - Clarify 'alert for a potential delay' and contacting the charge nurse with regards to EMS arrival. (#2)
 - Change contact superior to contact supervisor. Discussion on 30 minutes to contact supervisor and Duty Officer on call. (#3)
 - Correct emergency department to emergency departments. (last paragraph)
- B. Correspondence was sent to emergency department managers and hospital directors regarding offload delays. The following comments were made:
- Signature for offload.
 - Calling the charge nurse and hospital on bypass.
 - Standardizing call numbers.

V. CAPACITY PLAN – Susan Smith

Capacity plan is a standing agenda item. Documents were sent to hospitals, EMS agencies and first responders to clarify information regarding the requirements for getting the flu vaccine or to wear a mask in patient care areas, and what is considered a patient care area. Challenges regarding the flu shot mandate are addressed in the frequently asked questions document.

VI. STAFF REPORT – Susan Smith

- A. Communications will be sent out soon regarding EMS authorizing the use of credit and debit cards for certification and recertification fees in January 2016.
- B. There have been a total of 123 cases of the flu.

VII. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- A. A-475, Air Medical Support Utilization
A copy of the current policy and a draft of the updated policy were presented. The draft is a compilation of best practices from LEMSA's, Ventura, Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) and Los Angeles.
- B. Discussion on items in the policy:
1. IV. Procedure
 - A. Utilization of Air Ambulance
Individual statements reviewed:
 - #4 Patient conditions
 - Suggested to add stroke, intervention opportunities and identifying specific patient candidates to include children and special needs.
 - Remove 'Any other' from beginning of statement (m) 'injuries or medical problems in areas inaccessible to ground units'.
 - Remove 'Other' from beginning of statement (n) 'conditions subject to the approval of the base hospital physician'.
 - B. Contradictions to Transport
Kelly Forman stated that 'Contraindications to transport' conflicts with Mercy Air policy regarding discontinuing care on an infant/baby. Mercy Air policy is to transport children that are in CPR status.

Individual statements reviewed:
 - B#1 Patients exposed to hazardous materials without appropriate decontamination. Move to C. Relative contraindications to transport.
 - B#3 Clarify 'stable' patients'. Remove 'back country areas' from exception. Move to C. Relative contraindications to transport.
 - B#5 Remove 'back country areas' from exception.
 - C. Relative contraindications to transport
Add B#1 and B#3 from 'Contradictions to Transport'.

Individual statements reviewed:
 - C#1 Add 'adult' to beginning of 'patients in cardiac arrest statement'.
 - C#4 Remove complete statement.
 - D. Utilization of Advanced Life Support (ALS) rescue aircraft
Safety of area, closest designated landing zone and approved Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) helipad regulations was discussed as well as rescue conditions and timing of transport.
 - F. Remove statement. The statement is to avoid conflict in communication. Dr. Haynes will be consulted.
 2. Recommended changes will be made to the policy and the policy will be brought back to the subcommittee at the next meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

Next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is on January 14, 2016.