

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical Care Committee Meeting

October 1, 2008 at 1:00 pm.

Chairperson: John Scott, Scribe: Karen Chamberlain

Meeting called to order by John Scott at 1:00pm.

John Scott began meeting by recalling last year meetings', and Dr Shatz' involvement. Felt focus has decreased and would really like to see back on track. One area identified was to add a physician to the Medical Care Committee, because so often discuss medical care issues. This would allow this physician to take issues, and concerns to the Medical Directors group and/or EMRC groups to be more effective with goals. Dr David Meurer (meurer@ufl.edu) volunteered for the physician position.

Also addressed topics that frequently generate good discussions, and the need to assure other groups are aware of these. John Scott led discussion of STEMI update and what will mean for EMS community. John Scott discussed Strategic Plan and Medical Care Committee Goals.

There was discussion of Critical Care Paramedics, with some concerns with the project raised by some in attendance. Clarified curriculum has not been developed. This was put into motion in part to address medics being placed into positions of medical care they were untrained in. There was discussion of courses not available at this time, as this is still an undeveloped standards course. Discussed certain portions were more concerns than others, i.e., neonatal transports are performed by those who meet specific State mandated criteria. How would this translate to these individuals? Another concern raised was, could this document be used to establish a Scope of Practice for Paramedics?

Dr Joe Nelson commended John Scott on patient safety issues focusing on in Medical Care Committee. Appreciates his organized, conscious efforts on behalf of the Bureau.

Dr Nelson discussed problems of obtaining live intubations in operating rooms for paramedic intubation skills performance. There was discussion of intubations and with adjunct of supraglottic devices increasing in use, are intubations still the 'gold standard' or is this changing?

Discussed appropriate use of air medical resources, is it being used for convenience vs. necessity?

Discussed development of State Protocols, with criteria for use of air medical evacuation.

This led to discussion of State Protocols, and their viability, with numerous obstacles identified to this process. Medical Directors had expressed concerns with concept as well, especially with diversity of existing systems protocols. Medications one system may be very familiar with another system may know nothing about. John Scott again expressed concern for patient safety with this situation.

John Scott discussed Advisory Council, and their role with the EMS community. National EMS Advisory Council is a resource for the Medical Care Committee. Also discussed this in relation to in the event of a disaster, and departments deployed to other areas of Florida, or another state.

Dr Joe reported on tourniquets from Medical Directors meetings. There is a lot of information coming from military, with present conflicts contributing to increased knowledge of this intervention. There was discussion of uses, and misuses, of available powders for substitution of tourniquets to assist with wounds. John Scott requested a position paper on tourniquets from the Medical Directors, and Trauma Committee-will be forwarded by Dr Nelson.

John Scott discussed ground ambulance safety concerns, including environment, etc.-see list.

Discussed Stroke Centers and designations of these Centers. Legislation continues to not be clear with issues of primary care centers, and direction for these patients.

Next teleconference: 3-4pm, Tuesday, October 28, 2008 (877-805-0964, Code 158717) John Scott expressed support of conference calls, especially for physicians/medical professionals unable to attend.

John Scott thanked all those who attended. Meeting adjourned 2:30 pm

Signed In: Bill Azzinaro, Danielle Connor, Lisa Tasse, Danny Cribs, Greg Riley, Mike Lazano, Lisa Walker, Tom Quillin, Barbara Uzenoff, Susan McDevitt, Jennifer Bencie, Steve McCoy, Brad Elias, Beth Brunner, and Julie Bacon.