

Regional MAC Meeting
November 25, 2009
Damon's Restaurant
State College, PA

Attendance: Clifford Neal, Regional Medical Director
Jim Urban, S MEMSC Staff
Kent Knable, Centre LifeLink EMS
Rhoda Yoder, Lewistown Medic 29
Dave Jones, University Ambulance
Deborah Hopkins, Lewistown Medic 29
Josh Fremberg, University Ambulance

Dr. Neal called the meeting to order at 12:09 PM.

Minutes from the meeting held at the Village Tavern Restaurant on May 27, 2009 were approved on a motion by Dave Jones with a second by Kent Knable. Motion passed.

Minutes from the conference call held on October 6, 2009 were approved on a motion by Kent Knable with a second by Dave Jones. Motion passed.

State MAC:

Dr. Neal gave a report from the State MAC meeting.

-The State MAC is in the process of developing a Geriatric Trauma Protocol. This protocol will be based on the protocol in use in Ohio. Anyone with any suggestions was asked to forward them to Dr. Neal and he will pass it on to the committee.

-The use of EMS services to provide Firefighter Scene Rehab is being discussed at the state level. The use of a CO Monitor was a topic being discussed also because of the devices presently available are not providing reliable readings. The goal is to have a statewide protocol for EMS services that provide rehab for firefighters in place for the 2010 protocol update. Dr. Neal also asked that if anyone has a protocol already in place, to forward it to Dr. Neal and he will present it at the state level.

-Data has been obtained from the PCRs for the past year indicate that there has been an increase in the use of pain control in the field while there has been a decrease in the use of Medical Command and the use of Lasix.

-The Phillips Corporation has notified the State MAC of the group purchase price through PEHSC of 34% off list for AED and CPAP devices.

CPAP for BLS:

Jim reported that the CPAP for BLS units program is up and running. It was asked if there was any way to get more BLS units involved in the program. Unfortunately, BLS services are not really amenable to incurring the cost of the replacing of the CPAP circuits if they are used. These items cannot be billed for, hospitals do not use CPAP therefore an exchange cannot be done.

Temperature Monitoring Study:

The probes for the next phase of the study need to be modified to fit our needs. Dave suggested that Dave Wittmer be contacted to see if he could assist. Josh Fremberg offered to assist also. The probes will be brought over to the University to see if they can be modified for the study.

CO Detectors:

The first round of the CO detectors have been distributed. There have been two incidents reported. One on a fire response and the other was an incident that occurred while backing apparatus in at the station. There were two issues with the monitors. The company was contacted on both issues. The first issue the monitor was replaced, while the second is in the process of being handled. The second round of detectors is being distributed so that every licensed vehicle has a monitor on the jump bag.

EMS Act Update

The EMS Act was signed in August of 2009. The Act is available on the Council webpage. Some sections of the Act went into effect immediately, some take effect in February 2010 while the rest of the Act will take effect after the rules and regulations are developed. Work has begun on the rules and regulations. It is estimated that sometime around the Fall of 2010, the Department will be conducting meetings to discuss the changes similar to what was done previously. The Council will keep everyone advised as things develop.

Advanced EMT

With the new Act, new levels of certification, such as Advanced EMT, PreHospital Physician Extender (PPE) are included. Until the rules and regulations are developed, there isn't any further information available on these areas yet.

H1N1 Update

Since the Department has authorized the use of Paramedics to assist in the administration of the H1N1 Vaccine, the Council has received requests to assist at a local school district and the State Health Offices in vaccine clinics. More requests are expected. Presently there are 18 medics authorized to administer the vaccine. A few more would be helpful. Dr. Neal agreed to do another skill verification session. Before the session is scheduled, the names of medics interested in getting signed off will be asked to contact the office. Jim will send an e-mail to all ALS services asking if any other medics would like to participate in this program. Based on the response received, that will determine if another skill verification night will be held.

Reimbursement issues

Dr. Neal stated he would look at the state level to see if there were any known changes regarding reimbursement for the use of Epi Pen and CPAP. Also, the reimbursement issue for the discontinuing of resuscitation efforts on scene of a Cardiac Arrest.

Kent mentioned that the PUC has some regulations regarding reimbursement for van transports. Jim stated that the issue of invalid coaches or stretcher vans is addressed in the Act and we will have to see how that works out.

ALS Medical Command Re Authorization Process

Jim reported that the letters outlining the reauthorization process for medics went out on Monday. All ALS providers are REQUIRED to obtain 18 CEUs per calendar year. New medics are prorated 1.5 credit per month or portion of month that they are certified. At least 50% of the 18 CEU total must be in Med/Trauma. The re-authorization forms are due in the Council office by January 31, 2010. Changes to the medical command rosters continue to be e-mailed to the MAC committee and the service managers.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be held in Mifflin County on February 24, 2010 at 12:00 PM. Location to be announced.