

***Special MAC Meeting-October 6, 2009-9:00 AM
Telephone/Web Conference Call***

Participants:

Rich Kelley	Cliff Neal	Megan Lucas	Gerard Banfill
Ann Banfill	Jim Urban	Tim Nilson	

Dr. Neal welcomed all participants and explained the purpose of the call. The purpose was to discuss and receive feedback regarding the use of Paramedics to administer the H1N1 Vaccine.

Tim Nilson provided an overview of the way this program is going to work. Paramedics would be used to assist the Department of Health with public immunizations or schools with the immunizations of students. The medics need not be currently authorized for medical command, but they do need to be current with no disciplinary action against them. Paramedics will be authorized to give the vaccination, providing the paramedics register with the Regional office, complete a training session regarding IM injections (either on-line with the LMS or in person with practical hands on training) and have their skills signed off by a physician (either by the regional medical director, service medical director or any physician). Dr. Neal has agreed to sign off on the skill verification since he is the Regional Medical Director. After conversations with Dr. Neal, paramedics willing to participate can take the LMS course and then come to the skill sign off. If the medic chooses this route, the medic must bring proof of the LMS completion (ie. certificate). The medic can come to the didactic session with the skill sign off that will be held at a central location. The region will then forward a list of medics authorized to the Department. Reimbursement was also mentioned. This can be done in two ways. The Council can hire each individual medic as a private subcontractor at \$20.00/hour or contract with a service to provide medics at \$25.00/hour. The reimbursement price is not negotiable. Tim also stressed that even though a Paramedic attends the training, the physician might not sign off for the skill portion. The decision of the physician is final and there is no appeal process. Also, even though a medic is authorized, that authorization does not guarantee that that medic will be used.

Dr. Neal requested input into the training requirements. All participants agreed upon the training requirements that were mentioned before. Dr. Neal again stressed that he would try to attend each skill sign off.

Rich Kelley will be in touch with Dr. Botti to see what the status is regarding the con-ed session that she mentioned during an earlier call.

Gerard from Lock Haven raised issues regarding liability for the medics. These issues were addressed by Dr. Neal and Tim with reference to the PREP Act. Also the issue if the PODS were going to be used. Tim addressed this and said that POD sites might be used, but the true PODS utilizing the SNS would not.

Discussion from all participants ensued on the liability issue and a brief time on the Workman's Comp issue.

It was then agreed that two con-ed sessions would try to be scheduled. A letter requesting medics interested in participating was sent to all ALS services yesterday. The same letter will be sent via e-mail today. Service managers that have medics interested should have those interested in participating complete the registration form and return it to the Council. We will then notify those that send in the registration forms when and where the skill verification session will be held.

A question was raised if the medics would be responsible for the paperwork if they went to administer the vaccine. Tim stated that if the medic was sent to assist at a school to administer the vaccine, the school would be responsible. If we were deployed to assist the Department of Health, the Department would send someone to handle the paperwork. If we went to do a service, we as staff would be responsible.

The amount of con-ed credits was questioned. The LMS course is worth .5 credits. We will check with the Bureau if we incorporate a skills session with the lecture, if more CEUs could be awarded.

Being nothing further, the conference call ended at 9:51 AM. All members will be kept abreast of any developments.