



**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Meeting
Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 2:00 pm
Rappahannock Ems Council – Classroom A**

Members Present

Joey King -Chairperson
Waverly Alley – Spotsy. FREM
John Marshall – SRMC
Kirk Frey - SRMC
Christina Skinner – MWH EMS Liaison
Dennis Smith - Culpeper
Chris Noguera – CMH
Chris Simmons- CMH

Staff Support

Carolyn Marsh- - Staff Support
Wayne Perry- REMS

Excused

Carlos Valdez- MWHC
John Coggins –MWHC
Margret Rowe – Fauquier Hospital
Thao Nguyen - MWHC

Guest

Joe Sposa – Spotsy. FREM

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Joey King, the committee chairperson, at 2:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

June 4, 2015, minutes were approved. Motion by Tina Skinner, second by Waverly Alley, minutes approved by majority vote.

New Business

There was no new business.

Old Business

Drug Quality and Security Act of 2013-This was on the agenda per M. Rowe’s request. Because she did not attend the meeting there was no discussion. This item will be added to the October agenda.

Stat Kits – The group discussed implementing a deadline date for the stat kit. Motion by Kirk Frey and Second by Chris Simmons for implementation date of September 15, 2015, approved by majority vote. The initial contents in the Stat Kit will be:

Item	Quantity/Form
Albuterol	Two neb bullets @ 2.5mg/3mL each
Aspirin	4 x 81mg chewable tabs
Ipratropium	0.5mg/2.5mL
Naloxone	4mg/10mL
Nitroglycerin	0.4mg tabs
Ondansetron	4mg ODT tab
Ondansetron	4mg/2mL
Mucosal Atomization Device	1 ct.
REMS Medication Exchange Form	1 ct.

The stat kit will be packaged in a clear medication security bag with an orange label so it will not be confused with the narcotic kit. BLS providers will not be authorized to use the Naloxone or Zofran until a revised protocol is in place and they have received training. Tina requested REMS send out a memo to the hospitals with the medication list, including quantity and dosage. Carolyn will resend data regarding the quantity of kits needed per agency to the committee members.

Medication Shortages – Medication shortage list was reviewed and there were no additions or deletion of medications. The committee like the regional shortage form that was submitted to the group.

One for One – Regulations Title 18 Professional and Occupational Licensing was provided to the committee for review. Tina questioned whether there is a definition on Schedule VI Drugs. Anything that is not regulated by a prescription would fall under the Schedule VI drugs (IV solutions, medication delivery devices, etc.). Any schedule 2-5 medication would still need to be exchanged through a nurse, physician, or pharmacist. The committee would like for the REMS Council to send a letter to the BOP for clarification on schedule VI drugs and to determine the effective date of the revision.

MWHC Restocking Agreement – One delay in approval of the agreement was making sure it included the federal based agencies; MWHC would also like to have Exhibit D revisions complete prior to signing a new agreement. Two MWHC pharmacy representatives attended the Medical Direction committee meeting held on July 20. They proposed the removal of Ketamine, Etomidate, Morphine, Ativan and Valium. The committee members did not support the removal of Ketamine or Etomidate but did support the removal of Morphine as long as Fentanyl was available. They also agreed to reducing the benzodiazepine quantity to one, and it will be Versed. The recommendation has been forwarded to the Protocol sub-committee for review and revision. Once the new formulary is completed it will be posted and an announcement will be made. This process may not be completed until December.

Culpeper and Fauquier Hospitals Restocking Agreement – Each facility is working on the Restocking Agreements and will have them finalized in the near future.

Med-Box Seals – Committee was advised that there had been some problems with seals. There was an injury to one person, boxes have had seals so tight there were challenges getting in the box, and other times the seal was so loose you could stick your hand in the compartments without cutting the seal. Remind providers to use scissor to open the box.

This was Chris Simmons' last meeting and Joey thanked him for serving on the committee. New committee members include Chris Noguera, the EMS Liaison with Culpeper Hospital, and John Coggins, Pharmacy Director with Mary Washington Healthcare.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at **2:00 pm** Culpeper Memorial Hospital.



**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm
REMS Council, Classroom A**

Members Present

Joey King -Chairperson
Thao Nguyen - MWHC
John Marshall – SRMC
Christina Skinner – MWH EMS Liaison
Waverly Alley – Spotsy.

Staff Support

Linda Harris- Staff Support
Wayne Perry- REMS

Excused

Erin M. Cox- Stafford
John Coggins –MWHC
Margret Rowe – Fauquier Hospital
Kirk Frey - SRMC

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Joey King, the committee chairperson, at 2:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The October 1, 2015 minutes were approved as presented.

New Business

Levophed - Jake shared that there has been reported evidence supporting the use of Levophed as a first line drug for septic shock noting that the ODEMSA region is moving to replace Dopamine with Levophed (two 4mg/4ml vials – does not come in RTU bag) in the EMS protocols. This was a hot topic for lectures at the recent Virginia EMS Symposium. The hospital pharmacies present will look into cost and how it can be supplied for further discussion at next meeting.

TXA -It was reported that the REMS Regional Protocol and Medical Direction committees are recommending a TXA protocol in the current draft revisions going to the Board of Directors December 16th. Orange County EMS is currently using TXA. There was discussion regarding past input from Mary Washington Trauma Services who did research and found no evidence to support EMS use of TXA but would be a treatment option available for the patient by Trauma Services.

Old Business

Stat Boxes- Spotsylvania County shared they will be using GE Security AccessPoint Key Cabinets on their apparatus to house the regional stat box. The small key cabinet is reasonably priced and the stat medication kit fits comfortably. They are available through Professional Lock and Key. The committee asked that the information be shared by REMS with the other participating agencies.

Future meeting locations – The Committee discussed maintaining two meeting sites to include REMS and Culpeper Hospital for future meetings. Wayne shared that the video conference equipment is only available at the REMS Training Center and as such the support staff to the committee would be required to be there for all meetings. Consensus was to hold all future meetings at REMS.

Protocols Update- REMS Regional Protocols have been updated and will go to the REMS Board for approval in December. If approved, they will do a soft rollout on March 1, 2016 with a mandatory implementation date of May 1, 2016. Christina asked if other council committees have been involved for expertise and input on the recommended protocol changes to include sharing the new medication list with the Pharmacy Committee. Wayne reported that the only changes to the medication list in the proposed protocols were the removal of vasopressin, morphine and valium; addition of TXA.

Wayne shared that there may be some future Board of Pharmacy Regulation changes regarding Schedule II drugs and current regulation interpretations that standing orders may not be appropriate for narcotic administration. If changes adopted, no standing orders would be in protocols for EMS to administer narcotics.

Medication Shortage Update – Chart provided to members for discussion of any changes or additions to be made. Hospitals present reported that Pediatric Dextrose is available and can be removed from the list. Also mini spikes are now becoming available again with SRMC advising they have some in stock. MWHC will check on this and report back.

Pharmacy Committee Charter- Updated the scheduled meeting section to reflect the committees 2016 and 2017 meeting schedule.

Epi-Pen Grant – Greg Leitz sent out information to the committee regarding an Epi-Pen grant opportunity with Mylan Specialty L.P. The company will be accepting grant applications starting January 4, 2016. Discussion ensued as to whether the committee would recommend a regional grant application through REMS or encourage EMS agencies to apply on their own. If a regional grant and the medications placed in the Stat Kits, those EMS agencies who are not participating in the STAT Kit Program would not have access to those Epi-Pens. Committee recommended that the grant information be shared by REMS with all EMS agencies for consideration.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at **2:00 pm** at the REMS Council Office, classroom A



**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 2:00 pm
REMS Council, Classroom A**

Members Present

Margret Rowe – Fauquier Hospital
Thao Nguyen - MWHC
John Marshall – SRMC
Christina Skinner – MWH EMS Liaison
Waverly Alley – Spotsy.

Staff Support

Carolyn Marsh- Staff Support

Excused

Erin M. Cox- Stafford
John Coggins –MWHC
Dennis Smith – Culpeper Hospital
Kirk Frey - SRMC
Joey King –Chairperson
Chris Noquera – Culpeper Hospital
Wayne Perry- REMS

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Carolyn Marsh at 2:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by W. Alley and second by J. Marshall to accept the December 3, 2015 minutes as presented. Minutes approved.

New Business

Quarterly Committee Meetings- Carolyn advised the committee that Joey is considering holding quarterly rather than bimonthly Pharmacy Committee meetings. This will be presented for discussion at the next meeting.

Old Business

Levophed – Update, Thao with Mary Washington Healthcare advised there are no issues with availability, however the cost is 3 times that of a readymade bag of dopamine. Jake with Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center advised they had no issue with availability or pricing, they can get a vial for approximately \$3.00. Kirk and Thao will communicate on the pricing and supplier and report back to the committee at the April meeting.

Stat Box – Mary Washington Hospital reported they had 60 stat kits and are down to approximately 20. Spotsylvania Regional reported they have 54 of 54. Spotsylvania County is in the process of mounting the boxes for their stat kits, writing a temporary protocol and wrapping up training. Once that occurs they will stock the stat kits and this will reduce SRMC's quantity.

One for One Restocking – status update and state regulations. Since neither Wayne nor Joey were at the meeting, this item will be deferred to the April 2016 meeting.

Standing Orders for Schedule II Drugs – [Emergency Medications Act to amend Controlled Substances Act](#). Copy of article provided, deferred to April meeting. Jake asked that the council start lobbying for the passage of that bill.

RSI protocol –The RSI kits were discussed and the direction of the committee is to refer the matter to the Medical Direction Committee in order to determine which OMDs will allow their providers to be trained to follow the new RSI protocol. The next step would be to poll the agencies to determine how many may have the requisite training to get an idea of volume for use of the RSI medications. After discussion, the committee agreed to look at putting the RSI drugs in the current Narcotic Kit so there would not be a 3rd kit to deal with. This would resolve the concern regarding volume.

Medications Shortages – MWH and SRMC reported no additions or deletions to the current medications shortage document. Special note: Vasopressin is on the list, but it was agreed it should not be removed from the medication list since it is part of the current protocols. Once the new protocols are in place the group agreed it could be removed May 1, 2016.

New regional medication boxes / narcotic kits –After much discussion it was the consensus of the group each facility would determine how they will exchange the med-boxes. March 1, 2016 they will start exchanging the med-boxes with inventory per the new protocols with a final date of April 11, 2016. May 1, 2016 they will begin the process of exchanging the narc bags.

Epi-Pen Grant – Tina advised that Greg Leitz asked her to appeal to the committee to have the REMS Council do the Epi-Pen grant through Mylan Specialty L.P. He also advised that he would provide assistance in writing the grant. That information will be taken back to the Executive Director for input and direction.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at **2:00 pm** at the REMS Council Office, classroom A



**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Meeting
Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 2:00 pm
REMS Council, Classroom A**

Members Present

Erin M. Cox- Stafford
Dennis Smith – Culpeper Hospital
John Marshall – SRMC
Waverly Alley – Spotsy.

Staff Support

Carolyn Marsh- Staff Support
Wayne Perry- REMS

Excused

Thao Nguyen - MWHC
John Coggins –MWHC
Christina Skinner – MWH EMS Liaison
Kirk Frey - SRMC
Joey King –Chairperson
Chris Noquera – Culpeper Hospital

Guest Present

Sara Hatcher - MWHC

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Jake Marshall at 2:09 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by W. Alley and second by E. Cox to accept the February 4, 2016 minutes as presented. Minutes approved.

New Business

Appointing a Secretary – Christina Skinner has agreed to serve as the secretary for the committee.

Drug Slip – it was agreed to add a line to the drug slip for the facility restocking an item to list which facility is stocking the medication.

Section 582 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act Compliance policy –Hospital staff reviewed and do not feel this is an issue.

Old Business

One for One Restocking – status update and state regulations. Since neither Wayne nor Joey were at the meeting, this item is tabled until the June 2016 meeting.

Levophed – The goal was to add this medication into the formulary as a second line drug in the event there was a shortage of dopamine. SRMC has no issue having the medication as an alternative during shortages of dopamine. This would require an addendum to the protocols. Tabled until the June 2016 meeting.

RSI protocol – The doctors were polled on the RSI kits; the only two that we have not received a response from are Dr. Fines and Dr. Reese, the other OMDs are on board with the RSI protocol. Per the protocol, there will be a

paralytic in the narcotic bags as of May 1, 2016. Vecuronium will be used and if that medication is not available Rocuronium will be the alternated medication. Motion by W. Alley, second by E. Cox, motion carried.

During the exchange process the direction of the committee was for Wayne Perry to get with Dr. White for a temporary protocol to cover providers that may have to use morphine when narcotic bags have not been changed out. Otherwise providers will be practicing outside the scope of the protocols as of May 1, 2016.

Need a plan on how the hospitals will exchange the narcotic bags. The plan the committee agreed on is as follows:

- **Culpeper Hospital** – all the Culpeper County and Orange County agencies
- **Mary Washington** – Dahlgren, City of Fredericksburg, King George County, and Westmoreland County
- **Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center** – Fort AP Hill, Caroline County , and Spotsylvania County
- **Stafford**- Stafford County agencies and Quantico

Narcotic exchange will start on May 1, 2016 with a completion deadline of May 13, 2016. Each hospital will be responsible for notifying the agencies of the available time for the exchange.

Medications Shortages –Advised there were no items to be removed or added.

Epi-Pen Grant – Wayne advised since the medication would not be ordered, stocked or distributing by the REMS Council we could not do the grant for the EPI-Pens. The information was provided to all the agencies in REMS service area and each agency would have to do their own grant request.

Quarterly Meetings – The committee endorsed going to quarterly meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be in June. After that the meetings will be held quarterly starting with September.

Restocking Agreement and Medication Exchange – The current restocking agreement was sent out to all the committee members for review. C. Skinner noted some changes that need to be made and the medication exchange list needs to be updated to match the new protocols. Carolyn will make the updates to the agreement and send to all the committee members for review. This is a contract deliverable and need to go before the board for review as an action item at the April 20 board meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at **2:00 pm** at the REMS Council Office, classroom A



**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Meeting
Thursday, June 1, 2016 at 2:00 pm
REMS Council, Classroom A**

Members Present

Erin M. Cox- Stafford
Thao Nguyen - MWHC
John Marshall – SRMC

Staff Support

Carolyn Marsh- Staff Support
Wayne Perry- REMS

Excused

Waverly Ally –Spotsy.
John Coggins –MWHC
Christina Skinner – MWH EMS Liaison
Kirk Frey - SRMC
Dennis Smith – Culpeper Hospital
Chris Noquera – Culpeper Hospital

Guest

Joseph Sposa
Jay Cullinan
Greg Leitz

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Joey King at 2:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Tabled to next meeting pending minimum quorum.

New Business

Restocking Agreement – SRMC and MWHC advised that region should switch labeling change on regional restocking agreement Sub-Exhibit 2A to “for injection or injectable”. Committee approved and Chair will take to Board for consideration.

D10 – MWHC advised that D10 was added to the box with new protocol changes in May but is not reflected in the restocking agreement. Per committee, will take to Board to consider.

Miscellaneous Formulary Discussion – MWHC requested change to restock and formulary to update based on what is called for in the protocols.

MWHC requested change to restock and formulary to update drug availabilities.

- Calcium Chloride – All protocols mention max of 1 gm, currently stock 2. Can we reduce?
- Benadryl - All protocols mention max of 1 vial, currently stock 2. Can we reduce?

STATKIT – Albuterol listed as 4 bullets, per protocol, should be reduced to 2 Albuterol listed as 4. The agreement when these went live was 2 bullets and have been stocked as 2 since go-live.

Committee approved of proposed changes. Chair to take to Board for consideration.

EPI State Scope of Practice – Jake led discussion of Illinois passing legislation to alter EMT scope of practice to allow for admin of EPI from vial to move away from EPI Pen. Would potentially allow for decrease in cost and ability of hospitals to stock in STATKIT. Jake inquired as to if the committee would support asking REMS to lobby for VA legislation, possibly with lobbyist. Much discussion over these points. Chair will have conversations with Wayne and others and circle back to see if it is feasible to do. Will take it on as his project.

Fentanyl - Much discussion over “look alike, sound alike” and med errors with new switch of analgesic to Fentanyl. Jake provided overview of med errors seen at SRMC. Chair opened floor to discuss if REMS needed to take any action. MWHC suggested extended training on Fentanyl as it was a new med. Wayne offered that education has already been sent out by several hospitals and agencies. Per Jake, ODEMSA had almost exact same challenge when they made their switch to Fentanyl. Resolved with similar action REMS, hospitals, and agencies taking now.

New Narcotics Bag Challenges – Report from Spotsy FREM: Huge problems in new narcotics bags becoming worn and torn due to size of bag. Potential for MED error or loss of medication in low light conditions. FREM would like for a different packaging for narcotics kits, potentially in EMT Box. Also reported caps being dislodged from vials on increased basis. MWHC advised that they believed committee has already addressed multiple times, MWHC unable to stock narcotics in EMT Tackle Boxes due to regulatory and safe storage concerns. Pharmacies not available 24/7 in most REMS hospitals to allow for pharmacist to seal each narcotic box inside of tackle boxes as they leave. Jake reported SRMC unable to support now as well, SRMC did not receive approval for equipment and infrastructure to allow for narcs in tackle boxes as was expected. SRMC has same regulatory challenges as MWHC. FREM and REMS will investigate best practices around other regions to see what can be done.

FREM RSI Boxes – MWHC would like to find out from Spotsy FREM if they still need old RSI boxes now that RSI meds in all narcs bags. FREM advised they will have answer within 2 weeks after upcoming meeting.

Expired Boxes – Reminder from Jake and SRMC to all EMS agencies to please circulate EMS tackle boxes and kits. Recently have had numerous episodes of kits being exchanged 6+ months out of date. Pharmacies having to throw away large amounts of meds that have expired. Increases healthcare costs for us all. Reminder from Wayne that REMS has QA/QI process that can be enacted in situations such as this.

Misc – Per Greg Leitz, Waverly Alley has been transferred out of FREM EMS Division and has requested to be removed from committee. REMS representative requested an alternate be found.

Meeting Schedule – Joey King polled the committee to see if they were interested in changing the meeting to evenings. The committee was not interested in changing the meeting time.

Old Business

Medication Shortages - MWH and SRMC reported no additions or deletions to the current medications shortage document

Levophed – Chair advised goal of the item was to add as second line drug in formulary as alternative during shortages of Dopamine. While there is not a current shortage, may be good to have in case. MWHC reports very little cost difference in Dopamine versus Levophed. SRMC advised same. Chair advised he would bring forth to board

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on September 1, 2016 at **2:00 pm** at the REMS Council Office, classroom A