

**Rappahannock EMS Council  
Pharmacy Committee Meeting  
Tuesday February 1, 2005**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Karin Bankston, Mary Washington Hospital EMS Coordinator  
Linda Harris, REMS Council Systems Coordinator  
Tim Kimble, Virginia Office of EMS Program Representative  
Chris Simmons, Culpeper Hospital  
Don Taylor, Spotsylvania County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Svcs  
Robert Zywiak, Mary Washington Hospital Pharmacy

**Excused:**

Kevin Dillard, Chairman  
Joey King, LifeCare Medical Transports

**Others present:**

Marianna Bedway, Mary Washington Hospital ER

The meeting was called to order by Linda Harris, in the absence of Chairman Kevin Dillard, at 10:00 a.m. at the REMS Council Training Room in Fredericksburg, Va. Minutes of the January 4, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

The agenda as follows:

1. Temp Control Devices. A report from Joey King was read concerning a conversation he had with Mr. Orr from the Pharmacy Board. Mr. Orr indicated he refers any questions on this matter to the Virginia OEMS and their EMS Regulations. The information Mr. King received from the State Office is that the primary concern is if the vehicle is not housed in heated and air-conditioned bays. They would need some sort of temperature-controlled device. There was a discussion on whether temperature control devices are needed or if temperature-monitoring devices would be the better way to go. The question was raised of who would be responsible for replacement of the drugs if they exceeded the temperature range and have to be discarded due to the agency not monitoring the compartment. The VAOEMS stand is the agency would be responsible for the costs of the replacement drugs. There was more discussion on

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whether drugs lose their effectiveness if there is just a single spike in temperature or does it take a longer period of time at the varied temperature to make the drug ineffective. Also is the drug ineffective if the temperature of the drug has varied from the norm during storage or is it ineffective when the temp is above or below norm when being used on the patient. Bob Zywiak will research the drugs that are carried by agencies and the temperature variances that would make them ineffective. Linda Harris will contact Mike Berg for information on the temperature-monitoring device he has found. Bob Zywiak will look into a device that is used at MWH. The committee will wait until the fall Grant Cycle for any grant opportunities to allow time to study temperature ranges. Tim suggested that if we do proceed with a region wide grant we ask for an 80/20 grant. With the state providing 80%, Council 15% and agencies 5%. Especially since most agencies work on very tight budgets and would not be able to afford multiple purchases for temperature control devices. The council would have to budget for funds for this project.

2. The One for One Medication Exchange – Don Taylor presented a Draft Proposal for the Region-wide Standard Operating Guidelines for the One for One Exchange Program. This was based on Stafford County's current program. The goal is to have the one for one exchange at all regional hospitals for medication exchange. The Narcotic boxes will not be included in the one for one exchange. The Narcotic box will need to be exchanged in the pharmacy or through the pyxis at the nurse's station, as is the current policy at Fauquier Hospital. Once an EMS agency decided to adopt the one for one exchange program they will send a letter to the REMS Pharmacy Committee requesting to change to this program. The letter will include their OMD endorsement. It will be the Pharmacy Committees responsibility to notify the receiving hospital pharmacy that this agency is to be added to the program. Then the pharmacy can add them to the dispensing machine. Each agency is responsible for the training of the ALS providers on the new policies and machine use. This draft document states that the med box keys will be in a designated location on the EMS vehicle. The Narc Box Keys will be a non duplicating type key that will be issued to released ALS Providers by the designated officer from each agency. There was some discussion as to whether the REMS Council office would issue the keys. The decision was that REMS Council would issue a blank number of numbered keys to each person that will be responsible for the keys from each locality, county, and/or agency. The agency is responsible to maintain a document for each

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numbered keys to include the signature of the provider that the key was issued to. Agency will provide a list to the REMS Council of ALS members and the key number that was issued to them. REMS will in turn provide the master list to the hospital pharmacy. Tim Kimble suggested that the career office in each county distribute the keys. Mary Washington Hospital does support this program. Culpeper Hospital, according to Chris Simmons, does not plan to purchase a pyxis machine for a number of years. Currently the provider will take the PPCR to the nurse's station in the ER with a list of medications used and she will retrieve them from her machine. Tim Kimble will take a copy of the draft to Fauquier Hospital for their approval. He believes they will support the program.

Don will make some minor changes in the draft proposal, and will be prepared to present it at the next OMD meeting.

3. The needle stick safety program has been put on hold. The provider that Don Taylor assigned to the project is on medical leave.
4. Storage for Critical Care medications for special ERT and Search & Rescue Teams. Don presented a list of the proposed drug box medications that would be needed for these teams. The list contains 7 new medications that would require OMD approval and protocols. Robert Zywiak from MWH will research the availability of the 7 new medications.
5. ALS Survey. Survey will be linked to the REMS Council Website and letters will be mailed to all ALS providers to notify them of the link and the survey. This survey will last for several months.
6. RSAF Grants – The grants will be held until the fall cycle until research is completed on the planned projects.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be **March 1, 2005, 10:00 a.m. in the REMS Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Center** at 2301 Fall Hill Avenue, Fredericksburg.