

**Rappahannock Emergency Medical Services Council
Pharmacy Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 5, 2007**

Tim Kimble, Chairperson

Linda Harris, REMS Council Systems Coordinator
Joey King, LifeCare Medical Transports
Gary Garrett, Spotsylvania Cty OEMS
Bill Yeatman, Mary Washington Hospital EMS Coordinator
Robert Zywiak, Mary Washington Hospital Pharmacy

Excused

Chris Simmons, Culpeper Hospital

Guests

Brian Alvis, Infection Control Officer Spotsylvania Cty OEMS
Marie Frederick, Regulatory Affairs, MWH

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Training Room of the REMS Office on 2301 Fall Hill Avenue, Fredericksburg.

The first item of business was the needle stick safety issues in the medication boxes the MWH Pharmacy provides to our EMS agencies. Linda Harris reported on the meeting that was held March 5, 2007 between staff from the REMS office and MWH staff to include Pharmacy Director, Regulatory Affairs and EMS Coordinator. The meeting was to discuss the concerns that were raised over the non- safe needles that are currently provided in the medication boxes. After much discussion and contacting materials management the 21g and 25 g needles will be changed to safety slide needles and the 1cc syringe will now be needless. The latter will be used with a filter straw to withdraw the medication from an ampule. There was another 1cc syringe that was to be used but it did not work with the filter straw. Linda with the help of REMS staff will create a photographic training flyer to be sent out to the agencies similar to what was done with the mini-spike when it was added to the medication box last year. Sign in sheets will be sent to the agencies to prove that they have provided training to the members of their agencies on the new items. There was some discussion on whether we can impose penalties on agencies that cannot prove they are providing training to all their providers similar to the penalties that are imposed for non-compliance with the QI/QA reporting. This will be further researched. Once the MWH Pharmacy has all the items in stock there will be a mass recall of all medication boxes by county. Each county can return up to 10 boxes at a time and in turn they will receive a new box with the new bag of needles and syringes. Linda will inform each county on their day for the exchange. On the new boxes the itemized list on the top will have the words "Needle Safe" at the bottom of the list. The goal is to start the exchange on Monday, March 19. There was some discussion on

whether the ampule of epinephrine can be eliminated or replaced with a safer form. Right now there is no substitute for this ampule.

The second topic of discussion was the new medication bags. Sean Hegamy from Southeastern Emergency Equipment sent the REMS office a bag that is similar to the one the Culpeper OEMS currently uses. This bag is to be used for demo purposes. It has multiple exterior pockets and one has Intubation printed on the outside. He included several removable kits for an intubation kit, medications and IV solutions. The committee liked the bag without the 'intubation' printing. They would like another color but it only comes in royal blue, red, orange and teal. Of the four choices royal was the most preferential. As to the separate kits the only one we would like to use is the medication kit. There was some discussion as to whether extra padding could be added to one of the end compartments since our new narcotic bag will be placed in that compartment. Linda will contact Sean to find out if our request can be handled and to find out the bottom line on pricing and ETA once the order is placed. Once this information is collected another Pharmacy Committee Meeting will be called.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.