

**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Committee Meeting
Tuesday May 3, 2005**

Minutes

Members Present:

Kevin Dillard, Chairperson
Karin Bankston, Mary Washington Hospital EMS Coordinator
Linda Harris, REMS Council Systems Coordinator
Tim Kimble, Virginia Office of EMS Program Representative
Joey King, LifeCare Medical Transports
Don Taylor, Spotsylvania Career
Chris Simmons, Culpeper Hospital

Guests:

Tina Skinner, REMS

Excused:

Robert Zywiak, MWH Pharmacy

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kevin Dillard at 10:00 a.m. at the REMS Council Training Room in Fredericksburg, Va. Minutes of the March 1, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

The agenda as follows:

1. One for One Medication Exchange.

Don Taylor reported that the Draft Proposal is completed and was presented to the REMS Board Of Directors at their last meeting. A vote on the proposal could not be taken since there was not a quorum at the meeting. The next step would be the Pharmacy Committee Chairperson taking the document to the REMS Board Executive Committee for a vote of confidence. Then it will be presented to the REMS Council Medical Direction Committee. Tina Skinner suggested adding an education component directed at the 13 Operational Medical Directors to make sure they understand the document and to educate them on the process. There is still an outstanding question of the location of the key to access the medication and narcotic boxes. Per Tina Skinner the Pharmacy Boards definition of a controlled substance is all scheduled drugs and access needs to be controlled. The medical directors will be required to control access for all controlled substances not just the narcotics. After some discussion on the

location of the keys the decision of the committee was to proceed with the One for One Document as it was written.

2.Storage of Critical Care Medications.

A report from Bob Zywiak from MWH Pharmacy was read stating the availability of the Critical Care Medications that Don Taylor advised in an earlier meeting were needed by the Critical Care Teams. Most of the medications are available but the pharmacy needs more information such as exact amounts of each medication. Per Don these medications are on the State Scope of Practice for Critical Care Teams. A few of the medications will need to go to the REMS Council Medical Direction Committee for approval since they involve Rapid Sequence Intubation procedures. Don will have his team work on Draft Protocols to go to the REMS Protocol Committee for utilization of these medications.

3.Needle Stick Safety Program.

Don Taylor presented a draft of a Power Point Program for Basic Training for Needle Stick Safety for EMS Providers. When finalized, it will go to the REMS Board of Directors for approval. It was suggested that when this program is approved the REMS Office could host a Train the Trainer program for the agencies Infection Control Officers. Tina stated she would work with Jenni Carter to develop and advertise a program geared towards our regions ICO's. They will provide a CD of the Power Point Program and any other information that will be needed for agency training. Don suggested to apply for CEU's for the program. Karin Bankston suggested adding the MWH Exposure Form to the Power Point Presentation. It should include information on how and when to fill out the form and where to place the form once it is completed. Any comments or changes to the program need to be directed to Don Taylor. Once the final changes are made Don will get a final copy to Tina at the REMS office.

4. ALS Survey

Results of the survey were e mailed to committee members. There were over 52 responses and it included a good combination of volunteer and career providers. Comments included opening up the Pharmacy Committee meetings for all providers to attend. The REMS Council website will be updated and all committee meetings will be listed so that providers can attend if they choose to. All REMS Council Committee Meetings are open meetings. Kevin asked that we add a note that if a provider chooses to attend a meeting that they notify the chairman of the committee or the REMS Office. The majority of the responses support the one for one medication exchange. There were numerous complaints about the Narcotic containers. The pencil bags that are now being used at MWH are not adequate. One provider actually witnessed another provider removing a drug syringe from the container without breaking the seal. Linda will do a search for another type of container. Another question was raised about ALS providers

being able to use all of the medications that the state has listed within their Scope of Practice. Per Jenni Carter the state list is a guideline and all the mandatory drugs are on the list. Several providers complained that MWH Pharmacy takes too long to restock boxes. Some other providers requested additional supplies of ASA be added to the med box. The current supply is 4 individual blister packs. But if the medic drops one on the floor it cannot be used. Generally 37% of all those that responded are satisfied with their hospital pharmacy. The survey will be closed for now. It was suggested to activate the survey again next year to start trending responses.

5. Grants

There was some discussion on what the committee will request as a RSAF Grant in September. There was a suggestion to research a different container for the Narcotics that are carried on EMS Units. Linda will research different containers and will report next meeting. Tim Kimble states that many agencies will place the narcotic bag in the same locked container as the medication box. It should be in a separate smaller locked container. Don reports that his agency has a box that costs approximately \$50.00 plus the cost of the non-duplicating keys. He will bring that information to the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday July 5, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Training Room of the REMS Council Office, 2301 Fall Hill Avenue, Fredericksburg, Va 22001