

**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Committee
Thursday, September 1, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.
REMS Council Office – Classroom A**

Members Present

Joey King, Chairman
Christina Skinner, MWHC
Thao Nguyen – MWH Pharmacy
John Coggins – MWH Pharmacy
John Marshall – SRMC

Staff Support

Margot Moser – REMS
Wayne Perry – REMS

Excused

Waverly Ally - Spotsylvania
Kirk Frey - SRMC
Erin Cox – Stafford Pharmacy
Dennis Smith – Culpeper
Chris Noquera - Culpeper

Guest

Greg Leitz – Spotsylvania Fire & EMS

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of June 1, 2016 were approved as presented.

New Business

1. **Standard Operating Guidelines Medication/Narcotics Accountability and Control-** Committee delayed annual review and changes to this document until the new regional protocols and stat kits were in place. February 16, 2011 was the last revision to the document. A copy of the document was provided to the committee members by Carolyn Marsh with her input noted. Christina shared she also had reviewed the document with input. Also discussed recent case of agency removing medications from ambulance that was out of service and turning drugs back into pharmacy reportedly. Need to include a written procedure in SOG on how best to handle situations as this. The committee asked that REMS set up under GoogleDoc for committee comments which will be due by **December 1, 2016** meeting. Recommended revisions will be presented to the Board of Directors at their December meeting.
2. **Sodium Bicarb** - Christina shared that one of our EMS agencies identified that only 1 Sodium Bicarb is being stocked in the medication boxes and 2 are required under the current protocol. It was noted that many months ago there was a regional shortage on this medication and pharmacies were only able to stock one. Hospitals present advised there was no longer a shortage and could move back to stocking 2 in the medication box. **Joey King to contact the pharmacies not present and advise by email when all could move forward with stocking 2.**

3. **STAT Kits** - Jake and Christina shared they were contacted by King George Fire & Rescue regarding a used STAT Kit that was issued. Following discussion of current process for pharmacy handling, it was decided to maintain and monitor as this is the first case in the past year since STAT Kits were implemented. Please remind hospital staff to use rubber band provided in kits for wrapping completed EMS Med Exchange Form around kit and placing in properly marked "used" return bin.

4. **New Medications / Protocols** – REMS Protocol Committee recommending addition of Toradol to new protocols for pain management and use of D10 250ml bags with volumetric dosing since abbojects are often on shortage. Hospital Pharmacies were asked to review for support. SRMC advised they would support. MWHC advised they need to review for MWH and SH and will report back. Joey to contact Culpeper and Fauquier Hospital.

5. **Regional Narcotic Kit** – Tina had shared that based on feedback from Spotsylvania Fire & Rescue and other EMS agencies, MWHC would like to move towards a narcotic kit divided container that can be placed in the current security seal bags. With the additional new drugs it would be more safe, secure and organized for field use and restocking to use a small box. She is polling the EMS agencies on unit vault dimensions and presented a few sample box options. Some of the agency fire trucks have very small vaults which would limit the box size. Joey felt if hospitals were going to a more secure narcotic box then the agencies would need to consider moving to a locked compartment that would house them on units. Spotsylvania Fire & Rescue advised they would support to include moving to a new lock box.

Discussed contents of current Narcotic Kit. Remove sterile water containers as they are very large and not needed as EMS providers can use normal saline available for Vec when needed. Also discussed whether the RSI drugs should be maintained in a separate box for those agencies approved to use. Pharmacies would be open to a separate kit for RSI if the volume and use was low. Recommended REMS poll the EMS agencies again to determine who currently is approved and trained to use RSI kit.

Recommended that REMS send out regional memo to EMS agencies announcing that we are working towards a narcotic kit container versus just using the security seal bag. Committee will work to find suitable box first and provide dimensions to agencies. Spotsylvania Fire & Rescue agreed to support search as well. Once identified will discuss funding options.

6. **Regional Drug Boxes** – Mary Washington Pharmacy shared that the Board of Pharmacy had recently visited and inspected their site with a finding again that our old style regional medication boxes were able to be compromised with one corner lifted and drugs accessible while box sealed. This was addressed by the committee in the past and voted to move to a new style med box, Flambeau 1872 which meets BOP requirements. Since that time Spotsylvania Fire & Rescue and Colonial Beach had purchased new boxes and provided to pharmacies. Based on current inventory review there are still approximately 105 old style boxes in our rotation that need replacement urgently. Committee discussed at length and recommended the following:
 - Joey King reconfirm quote from Boundtree at \$32 per box with bulk order. Joey will email to committee the specs from the quote.

- LifeCare will purchase 22 of the new boxes.
- Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center will purchase 15 new boxes.
- Mary Washington Healthcare will purchase 22 new boxes.
- Joey and Christina will reach out to remaining REMS agencies and request that they purchase new boxes to replace those being used on each of their units.
- REMS will draft a memo to send out to all EMS agencies advising the Hospital Pharmacies will be moving to the Flambeau 1872 box for BOP compliance.
- Agreed on October 1, 2016 as date new boxes will begin to replace old style as they come in. Agencies will be directed to bring new boxes to REMS Council office once purchased for determined distribution to hospitals. Will divide stocking equally amongst hospitals and set goal of December 31st for all boxes to be replaced.

Old Business

1. **Medication Shortages** - Mary Washington Healthcare advised they are still under a D25 shortage.
2. **Charter** – The Committee reviewed the 2016 – 2018 Charter.
 - Correct meeting dates, change from bi-monthly to quarterly meetings.
 - Recommended to remove Goal: “Implementation of New Medications in New Protocols Once Shortage is Over” as that was completed under last Fiscal Year in May and not relevant to new charter.
 - Recommended and approved to add under Goals: Regional Drug Boxes replaced with Board of Pharmacy approved box.
 - Recommended and approved to add under Goals: Identify and implement Narcotic Kit container to be used with security seal bags.
 - Correct spelling error under authority section: should be “advisory”.
3. **Restocking Agreements** – REMS has received a signed agreement from Culpeper Regional Hospital. Mary Washington Healthcare advised their Regional Restocking Agreement has been reviewed by Regulatory and sent to leadership for signatures. SRMC advised their agreement was on hold for review and signatures.
4. **Narcan Article** - Committee received and reviewed article on Narcan where a court decision was made to purchase narcan for EMS agencies as retribution. Discussion ensued regarding similar support for EpiPens in the REMS region. Jake recommended that we seek to change the Scope of Practice at the state level so that EMT Basic providers are trained to do intramuscular Epi without auto injector. EMT curriculum change to volumetric dosing for EMT-B. Wayne Perry suggested that the committee members attend the next State Medical Direction Committee meeting on October 6th to bring for discussion. **Joey will work on an action plan and presentation, as well as clarify with OEMS if regulatory or curriculum issue based on current Scope of Practice.**
5. At June 2016 meeting the Committee approved the following changes based on new protocols. Joey advised he did not take to the Board as no additional action needed since protocols were approved. Hospitals may move forward immediately with the following changes and REMS will update the Med List (Attachment to Restocking Agreement):

- Calcium Chloride: All protocols mention max of 1gm, currently stocking 2. Reduce supply in med box to 1.
- Benadryl: All protocols mention max of 1 vial and currently stock 2. Reduce to 1.
- STAT Kit: Albuterol listed as 4 bullets, per protocol, should be reduced to 2 bullets of Albuterol.
- Remove sterile water from Narcotic Kits as saline is available to EMS providers and appropriate for use.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. Next committee meeting will be December 1, 2016 at 2:00 pm at the REMS Council Office classroom A.

**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Committee
Thursday, December 1, 2016
REMS Council Office – Classroom A**

Members Present

John Marshall – Alternate SRMC
Christina Skinner – Alternate MWHC
Thao Nguyen – Alternate MWHC
John Coggins – MWH Pharmacy

Staff Support

Carolyn Marsh – REMS Staff
Wayne Perry – REMS Staff

Members Excused

Joey King - Chair
Kirk Frey – SRMC Pharmacy
Erin Cox – Stafford Pharmacy
Chris Noguera- CRH
Dennis Smith- Alternate CRH

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. John Marshall presided as Chair over the meeting in the excused absence of Joey King.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 1, 2016 were approved with one change under New Business, 5. Regional Narcotic Kit – “Mary Washington Healthcare would like to support a move towards a narcotic kit divided container...” Motion by Thao Nguyen, seconded by John Coggins and carried.

Old Business

1. REMS Standard Operating Guidelines Medication Accountability & Control – Per the September meeting, document was made available on GoogleDoc for member’s annual review and recommended changes. All changes received have been made to the document and sent out to the committee. Committee members present discussed additional changes as follows:

Attachment B - Change Epinephrine quantity to a total of 8. Remove the duplicate Dopamine. Remove Amidate. Remove Saline. Correct spelling of prednisone and ketorolac.

Section D.5 Exchange – Change to read as follows: Medications shall be exchanged a maximum of 30 days prior to expirations. EMS shall make every effort to ensure medications and drug kits do not expire while in their control and storage. If pharmacy issued kits are returned past the documented expiration date, the EMS agency may be charged a fee for the replacement of the expired drugs.

Section E.9 Security – Change to read as follows: Any time that the medication/narcotic container is removed from storage on the agency vehicle, it shall be maintained and stored in accordance with Pharmacy Board Regulations. When an agency vehicle goes temporarily out of service the medication/narcotic containers shall only be stored off the vehicle in a secure location on the premises of the agency’s location of business for a period not to exceed 30 days. Beyond 30 days, the medication/narcotic containers shall be returned directly to the issuing pharmacy with appropriate record.

Final changes will be shared with the entire committee and forwarded to the REMS Board as an action item at their December Board meeting.

2. Sodium Bicarb – All regional hospital pharmacies have been notified of the correction to add 2 Sodium Bicarbs to the regional med box and are in place.

3. **Stat Kits** – MWH reported seeing an increase in the Regional Stat Kit usage. Committee would like to look at data on whether the full medication box usage by ALS providers has decreased. It was reported that some of the Med Exchange Forms have not been completed correctly with Stat Kit exchange. Pharmacies will continue to educate staff and EMS on proper use of form.
4. **New Medications / Protocols** – REMS Protocol Committee recommending addition of Toradol to new protocols for pain management and use of D10 250ml bags with volumetric dosing since abbojects are often on shortage. Hospital Pharmacies and Committee agree and will support once approved by the Regional Medical Direction Committee and REMS Board of Directors.
5. **Medication Shortage** – Mucosal Atomization Devices remain on national shortage following the recent recall announced. Hospital Pharmacies have none in stock and are unable to replace those being pulled from the recall. Recommended that REMS share regional notification to agencies on shortage and use of alternate medication administration routes available under protocols. In the meantime, the pharmacies present agreed to initial off on the medication list next to the MAD if checked and good. The item will be marked off the list on the med box if removed as part of the recall with none available to replace. This will assist EMS in knowing when they may use the device when encountered in the med box.
6. **Regional Med Box Inventory** – The regional inventory was conducted on November 15, 2016 with all agencies and participating hospitals reporting. The data showed a total of 153 medication boxes being maintained through SRMC, MWH, LHED and Stafford Hospitals. There were several duplicate box numbers reported which will be examined. Carolyn reminded hospitals of current numbering system: CRH – 1,000s, SRMC – 2,000s, MWHC – 3,000s. The 5,000 series of numbers reported are part of the old med box numbering system and it is recommended that as any of those are replaced with the new Flambeau 1872 box, the new numbering system should be used. 40 boxes remain to be replaced based on the inventory. The pharmacies present agreed to pursue dividing the remaining boxes needed for purchase among MWH, SH and SRMC. With only 26% of regional boxes to be replaced, proud of the efforts made to date to complete the project by year end and remain in compliance with the Board of Pharmacy.
7. **EPI Pen Update** –No report as Joey King excused from meeting. Wayne Perry shared they did bring this up for discussion at the State Medical Direction Committee and they were okay with IM injection by the EMT-B with use of auto injector or some type of prefilled medication. They were not in favor of EMT-Basics having to use med math or dosing for the administration of Epi in the field.
8. **Restocking Agreements** – REMS has received a signed Regional Ambulance Restocking Agreement from MWHC and Culpeper facilities. SRMC has presented minor recommended changes to their **document** which are under review by REMS and the Board. Carolyn reported there are a lot of agencies that have not returned the agency signature page indicating they will participate in the restocking agreement. The documents have been mailed, emailed and phone calls made for follow up. She will make one more attempt and then share the list of non-compliant agencies with the area hospitals for further action.

Wayne Perry suggested that the hospital pharmacies submit to REMS a list of what is required to be on file such as the CSRs, Restocking Agreement, etc. This official notification will assist them as they coordinate with the EMS agencies and help when needed to be escalated to the State or other level when no compliance.
9. **CSR** – Carolyn reported there are still a few agencies that are non-compliant.

New Business

1. **Reassessing Supplies in the Medication Box-** Thao recommended with recent device recalls, the committee consider looking at whether needles and other devices that are currently maintained in the medication kits should be removed. At MWHC all of the needles and syringes are available to EMS in the Par Excellence system. Materials Management would need to consider addition of the MADs, filter straws and mini-spikes into the Par Excellence. Both BLS and ALS providers have access to this exchange system. It was noted we also no longer need to provide carbujet holders. Thao also shared in her review, medications which are currently most often used that require a needle or device are in the Narcotic Kit which historically has not housed needles and devices with no issue. A majority of the medications in the regional med boxes are prefilled, inhaled, etc. Jake shared that SRMC would have to add a significant amount to their current EMS supply exchange system but would consider. He had a concern with how the change could affect a provider if the crew did not restock the unit appropriately and recommended that if implemented REMS and the hospitals would need to give a lengthy announcement period and include stickers on medication boxes noting the change. Pharmacies to consider and discuss further at next meeting.
2. **Non-EMS Use of Narcan** – Wayne Perry shared the REMS Council has been made aware of a potential issue with EMS agencies providing pharmacy issued narcan to Police Department personnel as an exchange when transporting a patient they have first responded and treated. Area Pharmacies also shared that several area Police Departments have requested the ability to exchange narcan through the EMS exchange program at the hospitals. Upon regulatory review the hospitals have shared with those agencies that they are unable to restock with them as the current agreement and system is for licensed EMS agencies. New Pharmacy Board Regulations have been put in place to allow Fire Departments (non-EMS licensed) or Police Departments to purchase and house narcan **will need a warehouse permit or CSR. They will need** the appropriate training program in place for its use. Motion was made by Thao Nguyen, seconded by John Coggins and carried for REMS to send out a regional memo to the EMS agencies reminding them of current regulations and discussion on the matter.
3. **Opioid Addiction Crisis Declared a Public Health Emergency in Virginia** – Discussed and shared information.

The meeting concluded at 4:15 p.m. Next committee meeting will be March 2, 2017 at 2:00 pm at the REMS Council Office, Classroom A.

**Rappahannock EMS Council
Pharmacy Committee
Thursday, March 2, 2017
REMS Council Office – Classroom A**

Members Present

Joey King – Chair
John Marshall – Alternate SRMC
Christina Skinner – Alternate MWHC
Thao Nguyen – Alternate MWHC
Erin Cox – Stafford Pharmacy

Staff Support

Wayne Perry – REMS Staff
Carolyn Marsh – REMS Staff

Members Excused

Kirk Frey – SRMC Pharmacy
Chris Noguera - CRH
Dennis Smith – Alternate CRH
John Coggins – MWH Pharmacy

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 1, 2016, were approved as presented on a motion by John Marshall, seconded by Thao Nguyen and carried.

Old Business

1. **Regional Medication Shortages** – Mary Washington Healthcare shared they currently have a shortage of Sodium Bicarb and do not expect the back order to come in until the second quarter of 2017. With the shortage, MWHC will begin stocking only 1 Sodium Bicarb per med box versus 2. SRMC shared they are not affected by the shortage. REMS will confirm with other hospital pharmacies not present. There was discussion as to whether all of the hospitals should move to only stocking 1 Sodium Bicarb in an effort to keep the regional box standard and the majority requested to continue to stock per the protocol needs as the medication is available. Wayne Perry asked that the Pharmacies be sure to label the med boxes properly with content changes to alert EMS users. MWHC will also post and send out a notice on their Sodium Bicarb shortage.

The area hospitals present also confirmed they have received back orders of mucosal devices and will begin stocking again in EMS Med Boxes. MWHC shared the MAD they have purchased is slightly different from past device (plastic tip versus foam tip), however, works the same.

There was a discussion on whether or not the hospital pharmacies could support each other during drug or device shortages, whereby those items could be shared/sold to an affected pharmacy and then returned when back orders are in. Pharmacists were asked to look at Pharmacy Regulations and policy under special circumstances like a national shortage, for future consideration.

2. **Narcan** – Discussion on increasing quantities and national diversions. Pharmacies will consider stocking a 10mg vial. **Recommend Chair advised REMS Protocol Committee that hospital pharmacies will support increase as evidenced based and that the protocol is written for average use per patient when considering quantity.** REMS was also asked to share information on Narcan Diversions with EMS agencies via the council website. **It was noted that there is no guidance on EMS agencies checking non-narcotic medications in daily unit checks and the committee recommended REMS look at language in current Medication Accountability & Control SOG.**

- 3. Reassessing Supplies in the Regional Med Box** – It was recommended with recent device recalls, the committee consider looking at whether needles and other devices that are currently maintained in the medication kits should be removed. The Committee has discussed in past meetings. **Thao Nguyen recommended that the carpjects be removed immediately from kits and stock for EMS, as no longer used. The committee agreed and hospitals will move forward with removal. REMS to update Restocking Agreement Exhibit of Med Box contents.**

Other supplies were discussed to include syringes and needles for medication administration. Committee would like for REMS to poll the EMS agencies and leaders on how that removal would impact them, even though such supplies are available from other areas like the Par Excellence restocking machine, etc. **REMS agreed to send out a request for input next week asking for a reply within 2 weeks and share with the committee.**

- 4. CSR Update** – CSR renewals with the Virginia Pharmacy Board were due February 28, 2017. Carolyn Marsh is working with area EMS agencies to obtain a copy of Pharmacy record. To date, there continues to be an issue with no response from Reva. Carolyn has shared information with Dennis at CRH and Wayne Perry has talked to the agency's REMS Board representative. Joey King as Chair agreed to also make a courtesy call to the agency leadership to encourage their participation and compliance.
- 5. Medication Accountability & Control SOG** – The REMS Board of Directors endorsed the SOG as presented with the recommended changes by the Pharmacy Committee. Updated document posted in December 2016.
- 6. Restocking Agreement Update** – John Marshall advised he would confirm SRMC agreement has been signed and sent to REMS. All other agreements on file.
- 7. ALS Stat Kit Use** –Hospitals present shared they have seen an increase in the use and exchange of the Regional Stat Kit, however no decrease in the use and exchange of the primary med box. **Committee recommended that REMS encourage the use of Stat Kit by ALS providers with guidance on when to use, via the website.**

New Business

- 1. CLIA Waiver** – CLIA waiver forms have been sent to all agencies to complete and return to the office. The current certificate expires March 23, 2017.
- 2. EPI Pen** – There is now an epinephrine auto injector available for around \$100.00 for two. REMS will share with EMS agencies. Link: www.goodrx.com/epinephrine-adrenaclick
- 3. Ancef** – Dr. Johnson would like for REMS to look at the feasibility of adding Ancef to the Regional Protocols and medication formulary. There is evidence to suggest early administration for any open fracture has significant benefit. Before moving forward to Protocol and Medical Direction Committees requested input from Pharmacy Committee as to whether pharmacies could support stocking in the med boxes. John Marshall shared that SRMC was ready to support and cost would be low. He shared as a member of the Protocol Committee that TJEMS has been using it for 2 years and is also in use by the military with positive results. Studies are reportedly showing that ancef administration is important by first medical contact or within one hour of injury.

Thao Nguyen shared that MWHC procedures would require her to bring back to MWHC Pharmacy Clinical Team for discussion and approval. Asked for copies of the articles and supporting information for that review process which John Marshall agreed to send out to the committee. Motion made by John Marshall, seconded by Thao Nguyen and carried to table until June 1st Pharmacy Committee meeting for action. Carolyn Marsh will reach out to Culpeper and Fauquier Hospitals for input as well.

4. Pharmacies reported there has been a recent influx of expired EMS Med Kits being exchanged well past the expiration date. A reminder of the policy encouraged. Asked that REMS consider a Pharmacy area on the website for items such as this and others discussed.
5. Thao Nguyen asked that with future changes to protocols and medication boxes that training of providers be given more consideration, with input requested from EMS agencies. In the past, we have moved quickly to update boxes or make changes only to find that agencies are not ready based on training needs (example: STAT Kits and the recent removal of Dextrose 50% and 25% abjects which reportedly affected one of our areas EMS agencies who do not follow REMS protocols).

The meeting concluded at 3:55 p.m. Next committee meeting will be June 1, 2017, at 2:00 pm at the REMS Council Office, Classroom A.

Minutes prepared by Christina Skinner, Committee Secretary 3/13/2017

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REMS Pharmacy Committee Meeting

March 2, 2017

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The meeting concluded at 3:55 p.m. Next committee meeting will be June 1, 2017, at 2:00 pm at the REMS Council Office, Classroom A.

Minutes prepared by Christina Skinner, Committee Secretary 3/13/2017