

**EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2006  
TELECONFERENCE**

**Members Present:** Janelle Pepple, Darleen Bartz, Cheryl Flick, Dr. Roller, Neil Frame, and Nancy Capes

**Others Present:** Dean Lampe, Tim Meyer, Ed Gregoire, Mark Haugen, and Kari Kuhn

**Welcome and Introductions**

Tim welcomed everybody to the meeting and introductions were done around the room and on the phone.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2005**

Minutes for the previous meeting were approved via email so no discussion is needed.

**Consideration to add Port-a-Cath access to the Scope of Practice for Paramedics**

This subject came from a request from Nancy Capes. Nancy stated that they have a need for this as it is a less invasive procedure than an IV start and utilizes a smaller needle. They have a fair number of transports with cancer patients who complain about an IV start when they have an available port. After some discussion, Tim stated that from a regulatory standpoint it is either allowed or not allowed. Specific criteria would be decided in local protocols. Ed stated that there would be a necessity for extra training that would be specific to the kind of port being accessed.

Dr. Roller made a motion to change the EMT-P scope of practice to include access to an artificial IV site with additional training and local medical approval being a prerequisite. Nancy Capes seconded the motion. There was no opposition. This motion will be voted on electronically by the committee. (Internet voting was 11-0 in favor and this motion was passed with no opposition.)

**Timeframe for leaving ambulance trip tickets at the receiving hospital**

Tim has received complaints from hospitals not getting patient care reports in a reasonable timeframe, or not at all. The law requires that a copy be provided to the receiving hospital, but no timeframe is specified. Dr. Roller stated that 72 hours is a reasonable amount of time. There was discussion regarding the 72 hour timeframe and paid services vs volunteer services. Dr. Roller made a motion to establish a 72 hour time limit for submission of patient care reports to the receiving hospital by EMS. Darleen Bartz seconded the motion. There was no opposition at the meeting. This motion will be voted on electronically by the committee. (Internet voting was 10-1 in favor and this motion was passed.)

**Surveying expired EMTs**

Tim brought up discussion regarding the number of EMTs that do not recertify each year. Tim sent a copy of a sample survey to the committee for review prior to the meeting. There was brief discussion about question #5 and #7 – “other” will be added under these questions for reasons why. Please review and let Tim know of any thoughts or suggestions. This survey will be sent out sometime in early April.

**Medical Director’s agreement discussion**

An agreement signed by a medical director is required of each ambulance service. A copy of a draft agreement was included with the license applications. The medical director / ambulance does not have to use this draft agreement and may create their own, but the definition of a medical director will still remain the same. Dr. Roller felt that ACEP had more reflective language regarding standing orders and responsibility for medical actions as opposed to behavioral responsibility.

QRUs are not required to have an agreement with a medical director as they are required to be affiliated with an ambulance service. EMS providers working in hospitals are required to have separate medical direction with

that hospital. There was brief discussion regarding the medical direction necessary for the Emergency Management Response Teams. Tim's thought was that there might be a need for a medical director for each regional team. Dr. Roller said that this will be a point of discussion at the Medical Directors Association meeting.

Neil again mentioned that he would like to have pictures on the state issued EMT cards. There are privacy laws that stand in the way of getting pictures from DOT as well as the fact that not everybody has a driver's license. Dean suggested that the EMS Association will introduce legislation in an effort to bridge the gap between the DOT and the Division of EMS.

### **NREMT CAT Testing Update**

Starting 1/1/07 there will no longer be a National Registry written test. It will be Computer Adaptive Testing that will be conducted at Pearson Vue (Sylvan Learning Centers) testing sites. In ND these sites will be located at Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Minot, Williston and Dickinson. There is a mobile system option for low density populations like North Dakota, but DEMS will not initiate that system. All the details of this new system have not been worked out yet and if issues arise we may look into the mobile system to make more availability. The vendor has pledged availability of seats and time.

### **Next Meeting**

Normally the next meeting would be in conjunction with the NDEMSEA conference in April. After some discussion it was decided to not have that meeting. The next meeting is scheduled on May 3, 2006 as a noon teleconference.

### **Adjourn**

Dr. Roller made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Darleen Bartz.