



NASEMSO Medical Directors Council

March 2, 2015

Meeting Record

Attendance - Peter Taillac, Chair, Rick Alcorta (MD), Howard Backer (CA), Brian Froelke (MO), Julia Martin (KY), Brian Moore (NM), Joe Nelson (FL), Jeffrey Sather (ND), Harry Sibold (MT), Steve Vetrano (NJ), Daniel Wolfson (VT)

Call to Order and Roll Call – Dr. Peter Taillac, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM EST.

Approval of January 21 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved as written.

Introduction of New Member, Dr. Jeffrey Sather (ND) – Dr. Taillac welcomed Dr. Sather, the new state EMS Medical Director for North Dakota. He started as a volunteer EMT in North Dakota, later working as a paramedic in the state of Washington. He returned to North Dakota and completed medical school. He is a board certified emergency physician and works at the largest trauma center in North Dakota in Minot, ND. He has been an EMS medical director for years and has a passion for rural EMS systems. He looks forward to working on performance improvement in EMS, as North Dakota has been largely a volunteer state. He is budgeted for half-time with North Dakota while working his regular job full time.

National Strategy for EMS Specialty Certification – Kathy Robinson explained that Joe Schmider (TX) has led the working group and she has provided staff support for this project. Doug Kupas had been the medical director representative on the group. NHTSA was silent on specialty certification when the EMS Scope of Practice was released. Since then, there have been a plethora of specialties that have arisen in recent years and NASEMSO hopes to address it with this strategy. The strategy proposes the creation of the American Board of EMS Specialties, where NASEMSO would be the single and only voting member. Several coordinating councils would be formed which would focus on the most common specialties (community paramedicine, critical care, etc). They have surveys up and running and are collecting information from the state officials and EMS stakeholders. For more information and to complete the survey, see [NASEMSO EMS Specialty Certification](#).

DEA Update – Dr. Taillac referenced the discussion with DEA officials at the last meeting in New Orleans. The DEA has turned its attention to the Controlled Substances Act and the fact that it does not address EMS. They are preparing to begin drafting administrative rules to address issues related to EMS. Unfortunately, they are unable to address the problem in the statute that prohibits administration of controlled substances by EMS in the field without online medical control. NAEMSP is reportedly working on getting a bill introduced in Congress to correct this. Harry Sibold, who serves on ACEP's EMS Committee, said that the DEA contends that state regulations are inconsistent with respect to who is required to hold the DEA license. Dr. Taillac added that that we have elected to partner with ACEP and NAEMSP on the DEA issue.

Glucometer Use In EMS – Dr. Carol Cunningham was not able to join the call.

Project and Committee Updates – Various Members

- National Prehospital EBG Consortium – Dr. Taillac explained that Dr. Chris Martin-Gill and NAEMSP have established this group to support the evolution of evidence-based guidelines in EMS. They will meet quarterly, primarily by phone, but once a year in person. NASEMSO has a seat on the Executive Committee and Peter is currently filling that role. The Strategy document is available on the NAEMSP website at NAEMSP.org
- New Member Orientation – Dr. Ken Williams was not able to join the call today. Dr. Taillac said the intent is to develop mentorship and materials for new state EMS Medical directors that join the Council.
- Inter-Association Task Force for Appropriate Care of the Spine Injured Athlete – Dr. Joe Nelson reported the initiative is sponsored by the Association of Athletic Trainers, which has 64,000 members nationwide. There was much discussion at the meeting about use of spine boards. There were several EMS physicians at the meeting, including himself. The group is presently fine-tuning the guidelines. They are advocating that athletic trainers remove helmets and pads but are leaning toward using a scoop stretcher or spine board for transporting the injured athlete off the field. They hope to improve communication between the team physician, athletic trainers and EMS. Dr. Taillac asked if there would be interest in EMS medical directors developing a training module for athletic trainers. Dr. Nelson replied he thought they would be interested. Dr. Harry Sibold commented that in the different states where he has practiced, EMS is not allowed onto the field until summoned. Dr. Brian Moore, serves as a team physician, commented it would be difficult to get EMS to remove a patient from the backboard once the athletic trainer has placed the patient on it.
- Model EMS Guidelines Project– Drs. Carol Cunningham and Rich Kamin were not able to join the call. Dr. Taillac presented the topic at the recent Eagles Meeting and there was much interest. There is a new logo for the project on NASEMSO home page, which takes viewers to the guidelines when clicking on the logo.
- EMS Performance Measures Project - Brian Moore serves on the Performance Measures Steering Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Robert Bass. He attended the first meeting of the Steering Committee. He reported that Susan McHenry proposed marrying the EMS Performance Measures Project with the Model EMS Clinical Guidelines, which will help provide needed support for the continuation of the Model Guidelines Project.
- Statewide Implementation of a Prehospital Care Guideline – Dr. Taillac reported they are in the 3rd year of the project. The project's intent is to test the implementation of the pediatric pain evidence-based guideline in five different states.
- Joint Trauma Committee - Dr. David Lehrfeld was not able to join the call
- ACEP AACN Project - Dr. Lehrfeld was not able to join the call.
- Other - Dr. Brian Moore reported that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine (COPEM) recently approved the intent to write a new policy statement on Pediatric Readiness. He and Dr. Manish Shah will be the co-authors of the statement. Their goal is to have the first version of the document drafted by fall of 2015.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM EST. The next meeting will be **May 4**.

Meeting record was respectfully prepared and submitted by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.