



NASEMSO Medical Directors Council

March 4, 2019, 1:00 PM EST

Meeting Record

Attending – Ken Williams (RI), Carol Cunningham (OH), Michael Kaufmann (IN), Kate Zimmerman (ME), Joy Crook (NM), Doug Kupas (PA), Howard Backer (CA), Ricardo Colella (WI), Ken Schepke (FL), Sabina Braithwaite (MO), Harry Sibold (MT), Jeff Beckman (CO), David Lehrfeld (OR), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Diane Hainsworth (DE)

Call to Order, Welcome – Dr. Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Approval of January 9th Meeting Record – Jeff Beckman moved to approve; Harry Sibold seconded; the meeting record was approved as submitted.

NHTSA Update – Dr. Jon Krohmer was not available to report.

Legislation Roundtable

PA Reimbursement for Non-Transport (enacted 2018) – Dr. Doug Kupas reported that state legislation passed in 2018 requiring Medicaid and insurers to pay for treatment by EMS even if the patient is not transported. See PA Act 103 of 2018. The regulations have not been promulgated yet, but it has been interpreted that the EMS agency must have been dispatched (would not cover community paramedicine). Other than Medicaid, it is not clear if insurers will pay. Howard Backer congratulated Pennsylvania as this seems to be where CMS is headed. CMS is allowing California providers to bill for non-transport.

Potential Medicare Reimbursement for Cardiac Arrest Care for CARES Reporting – Dr. Kupas shared that he has been part of a group working with the Assistant Secretary of HHS (ASH) who is interested in a “pay for reporting” program for those EMS agencies who are reporting cardiac arrest data through CARES. They would be able to bill Medicare at the ALS level for cardiac arrest care even if the patient is not transported. It would also allow billing for two ALS payments if two EMS entities respond to a cardiac arrest. In addition, it would allow payment (at the BLS rate) for a response when there is a field termination when the patient is futile. This is on a fast track and is separate from the ET3 initiative. This would apply to all CMS (Medicare) patients. Typically, the other insurers eventually follow what Medicare covers. Sabina Braithwaite suggested that it would behoove a state to become a CARES reporter given this expected change (to have a state subscription to CARES, instead of a few large agencies). Doug agreed and added that there are plans underway to fund a state coordinator and subscription for CARES for the states that are not currently participating.

DE Overdose System of Care (enacted 2018) – Diane Hainsworth is the director of the state EMS office in Delaware. The state passed legislation in 2018 to develop an Overdose System of Care, modeled after other systems of care (e.g. trauma). They are adding 10 new positions in the state EMS office to manage this program. All hospitals in the state are participating in the Overdose System of Care. They are the first state to attempt this approach to the opioid crisis.

What EMS, ED and counseling staff see as treatment is all different and they are learning to speak the same language. Overdose calls increased from 3% to 15% of their EMS call volume and EMS providers were suffering compassion fatigue. They instituted empathy training for EMS providers. They are looking at community paramedicine program for opioid abusers. Dr. Schepke gave kudos to Delaware and commented that in Palm Beach County they have over 200 addiction treatment centers and only a handful have physicians associated with them. Diane said that addiction centers will have to have physician or nurse practitioner and/or telemedicine access. Dianne will share materials from their program.

Planning MDC Agenda for Annual Meeting, May 13-14 – Mary Hedges shared a preliminary draft of the May 13-14 agenda and requested suggestions. Ken Williams asked Doug Kupas to lead a discussion on the non-transport billing initiatives. Ken Schepke suggested a discussion on resuscitation centers. Doug Kupas said that Arizona is probably the only state that has a system. Ken Schepke offered to lead the discussion.

Project and Committee Updates – Various Members

ACSCOT Ketamine Position Paper Working Group – Dr. Aaron Burnett was not on the call to report.

Code of Ethics for EMS Medical Directors – Dr. Williams reported that the draft document has now gone to ACEP, NAEMSP and AMPA for review, additional edits and potential endorsement.

Model EMS Guidelines Mini-survey – Dr. Carol Cunningham shared that she and Rich completed a series of rollouts in the previous year. A mini survey was recently completed to identify which states are using the model EMS guidelines.

Naloxone Evidence Based Guideline – Dr. Ken Williams commented that the project is close to completion and he anticipates the manuscript will be submitted to PEC by the end of the week.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 2: 12PM EST.

Register by May 1st for early bird rate: NASEMSO Annual Meeting – May 13-16, Salt Lake City

See <https://nasemso.org/news-events/events/event/annual-meeting-2019/>