



NASEMSO Medical Directors Council

September 7, 2021, 1:00 PM ET

Meeting Minutes

Attending – George Lindbeck (VA), Azeem Ahmed (IA), Dan Wolfson (VT), David Duncan (CA), Ed DesChamps (SC), Sam Hunthausen (MT), Jason Kegg (IL), Jeff Beckman (CO), Joe Holley (TN), Joey Scollan (NH), Joe Ferrell (Biospatial), Jon Krohmer (NHTSA), Kate Schissler (EMS Fellow, guest of Rich Kamin), Kate Zimmerman (ME), Doug Kupas (PA), M. Riccardo Collella (WI), Matthew Sholl (ME), Mike Levy (AK), Michael Kaufmann (IN), Rich Kamin (CT), Rick Hong (DE), Sabina Braithwaite (MO), Tim Chizmar (MD), Tripp Winslow (NC), NASEMSO: Mary Hedges, Dai Gainor, Hannah Degn

Call to Order and Welcome – Dr. George Lindbeck called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM EDT.

Approval of May 3rd Meeting Record (attached) – There were no changes to the meeting record.

Self-Introduction of New Members

- Dr. Azeem Ahmed (IA) is the new state EMS Medical Director for Iowa. He is Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Iowa where he is the Division and Fellowship Program Director for Emergency Medical Services. Dr. Ahmed completed medical school at the University of Iowa and his emergency medicine residency at Michigan State University in Grand Rapids, MI, where Dr. Jon Krohmer was one of his faculty physicians and a career mentor. His EMS career started as a volunteer firefighter/EMT on his hometown fire department and has progressed from there.
- Dr. Walt Lubbers (KY) was not on the call.
- Sam Hunthausen (MT) is the Executive Officer for the Montana Board of Medical Examiners. He began his career working in an emergency department, then managed a medical practice and now is the Executive Officer of the Montana Board of Medical Examiners. He noted he is not a physician and Montana does not currently have a state EMS medical director. In Montana, EMS clinicians are licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners while EMS agencies are licensed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services, EMS and Trauma Services Program.

Prehospital Cricothyrotomy Survey – Dr. Ed DesChamps said South Carolina is interested in allowing paramedics to perform surgical cricothyrotomy. He has created a list of questions which can be put into Survey Monkey for the Council members if they approve. The intent is to take the information collected to his state's trauma advisory committee to pursue allowing this procedure to be performed by paramedics. Discussion supported proceeding with the survey. Motion made by Dr. Kupas, seconded by Dr. Winslow to proceed with survey. Dr. Lindbeck suggested sending the draft to the group for suggestions with a week to respond with any edits before finalizing the survey. Mary will send the draft to members for feedback.

Dr. Winslow asked, considering the medical nature of this survey, if the MDC requires its members to be physicians. Mary Hedges and Dia Gainor clarified that the NASEMSO bylaws provide for the state EMS director to designate who will serve on each council. The MDC has in the past had an occasional non-physician (primarily the state EMS director) as the designee when there is not a state medical director. Newly appointed Montana designee, Sam Hunthausen, said he does not plan to weigh in on these medical decisions but expects to learn from the MDC. He was designated to be the state's representative to the MDC by Terry Mullins, the state EMS director.

NASEMSO Update – Dia Gainor, Executive Director, reported that NASEMSO is actively monitoring the Annual Meeting in Reno both in terms of the COVID statistics and the ability of members being allowed to travel. The Model EMS Clinical Guidelines are out for public comment. Jim DeTienne, who retired as Montana's state EMS director in 2020 and is now managing NASEMSO's EMS workforce project, is out for major chemotherapy.

NHTSA OEMS Update – Dr. Jon Krohmer reported that COVID continues to be a significant issue at the federal level. Staffing across healthcare is also a major concern. There are two Emergency Department offload and hospital diversion webinars coming up—one later today and another by NAEMSP tomorrow. USDOT has reinstated its travel restrictions and he will have to wait and see if it is lifted by the time of the NASEMSO Annual Meeting.

Ketamine and Excited Delirium Discussion - Dr. Dan Wolfson said he was interested in advice from other states regarding this controversial topic. In Vermont, there were local news reports that a 14-year-old was given ketamine for combative behavior and the matter was brought to the City Council in Burlington. The question arose as to why they did not collect data on race. There is concern about using the term "excited delirium" because they feel it can be applied disproportionately to minorities. Doug Kupas responded that the collaborative position statement issued by NAEMSP replaced "excited delirium" with "agitated or combative patients." See <https://nasemso.org/wp-content/uploads/Clinical-Care-and-Restraint-of-Agitated-or-Combative-Patients-by-Emergency-Medical-Services-Practitioners.pdf>. Dr. Ahmed added that when publishing an article on ketamine recently, he was asked not to use "excited delirium" and instead used "profound agitation." Other members discussed that "excited delirium" has fallen out of favor and people are moving towards other terms that are meant not to be as controversial. While different terms are now being used, there has been no agreement on which term to use.

Project and Committee Updates – Various Members

- **Pain Management EBG Project** – Dr. George Lindbeck reported the two manuscripts have been submitted to PEC and are out for peer review. The other deliverables have been submitted and the project is nearly completed. Dr. Krohmer pointed out that the pain management EBG includes ketamine, and it would be advisable to note it is in the context of pain and not sedation.
- **Interfacility Transport Position Paper** – Dr. Lindbeck is in the process of determining how to request support from other EMS associations on the position paper that has been endorsed by NASEMSO.
- **NEMSAC Update** – Dr. Peter Taillac was not on the call to provide an update.

- NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines, Version 3 – Dr. Richard Kamin said the draft Model EMS Guidelines are now out for comment. They are excited with the progress made and look forward to the product being available in early 2022.
- Prehospital Guidelines Consortium – Dr. David Lehrfeld was not on the call to report.
- Joint Commission Cardiac Certifications Technical Advisory Panel - Dr. Doug Kupas said there has been no activity from the Joint Commission on this initiative.
- NASEMSO/USFA Responder Pandemic Continuity of Response Operations – Dr. Rick Hong said he missed the last meeting and does not have any updates.
- EMS Medical Director Assessment - Dr. Lindbeck said the EMS medical director survey developed by Dr. Chris Knutson is expected to be issued in mid-September and he encouraged people to reply.

Speakers and Topics for MDC Meeting in Reno, November 15-16 – Ketamine (and sedation) was suggested as a topic, especially deciding on a common name. The NAEMSP Quality bill was suggested by Dr. Mike Levy, and he would be happy to lead the discussion. Mike Kaufmann suggest Interfacility transport and the lack of resources especially with hospital diversion. Drs. Kaufmann and Lindbeck agreed to lead the discussion. Dr. Lindbeck suggested sending any further suggestions by email.

Next Meeting – November 15-16 (at the NASEMSO Annual Meeting) – Dr. Lindbeck asked if anyone is faced with travel restrictions, reporting that Virginia is not restricted at this point and continues to plan for their state EMS conference in November. Some members commented that their hospitals are not allowing them to travel. Mary noted that many of the members of this council are not employed by the state and may not be subject to the same travel restrictions that apply to employees in state EMS offices.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM EDT.

The meeting record was respectfully submitted by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.