

El Paso County EMS Medical Director Committee

May 7, 2020

Summary Notes

Attendance:

Dr. Matt Angelidis	Yes	Dr. Brett Banks	Yes
Dr. Stein Bronsky	Yes	Dr. Jeremy DeWall	No
Dr. Sean Donahue	No	Dr. David Hakkarinen	Yes
Dr. Tim Hurtado	Yes	Dr. Jessica Walsh	Yes
Dr. Eric Wu	Yes	Dr. Bob Kelly	Yes
Kim Schallenberger	Yes	Jayme McConnellogue	Yes
		Sam Adams	No
GUESTS:		Mark Warth	Yes

Jayme McConnellogue called the meeting to order at 0800

- Due to COVID19, meeting was once again held via Zoom platform.
- Minutes for the April 2nd meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Paramedic Position on Committee

The group agreed it was time to get the paramedic position application out into the community. Kim will work with Jayme to facilitate this. Applications will be received until June 1st. Plan for interviews on June 4th.

COVID 19 Cardiac Arrest Guidelines

- The guidelines approved during the April meeting have been in effect.
- All agreed that the intent of the changes were for the long term to reflect best practice and not specific to the COVID19 concerns
- These changes included:
 - Modification of the number of cycles for out of hospital cardiac arrest
 - Modification of the medications used for out of hospital cardiac arrest
 - Modification for the Termination of Resuscitation timeline
- A survey was sent out to field crews and medical directors regarding the guidelines and comments were received. In general, the feedback was positive but this will need to be reviewed again soon to consider the comments from field crews and medical directors.
- Updates should include more provider discretion in the treatment of out of hospital cardiac arrest
- Recommendation there should be additional education for both prehospital providers and for emergency room providers on the new guidelines to ensure consistency throughout the system
- Use of medications is different in the case of ROSC and if ROSC is not achieved
- Group felt there should be two pathways for ToR depending on the cardiac monitor readings
- Group felt the references to COVID19 should be removed from the guideline as this will continue after the current pandemic declines

Airway Algorithm Guidelines

- The group felt that usage of viral filters would/should become standard practice in the event of any respiratory disease concern
- The timeframe for a “suspected infectious disease” guideline should be determined by the agency medical director
- In the event that viral filters are not available, the usage of the “airway/intubation” box should be considered best practice
- RSI will be updated in the guidelines to Medical Assisted Airway Management (MAAM)
- SGA with a viral filter is considered the best option. The SGA may be left in place rather than ETT if the SGA is working appropriately
- Group felt that passive oxygenation was appropriate for transferring patient to the ambulance with the goal of using the intubation box for additional airway management

Medical Control

- Pulsara is available for conversations between the prehospital provider and medical director
- This was initially only for COVID19 patients but quickly began to be used for other patients
- The group expressed concern that there could be paramedic initiated patient refusals beyond COVID19 patients without consultation with medical direction. The group would like to see data regarding this issue and would like to see additional education to address the concern.
- Paramedic initiated refusal without medical director consult may result in no protection for paramedic
- Group would like to see a formalized platform regarding transport versus non-transport

COVID Patient transfers at facilities

- The group was informed about inconsistencies among facilities after the initiation of the COVID patient transfer guidelines
- Drs. Bronsky and Angelidis meeting with facilities today to discuss the issue
- The group expressed that risk cannot be shifted from one healthcare stakeholder to another. The system stakeholders must work together to achieve the best option
- Additional education at facilities will take place to ensure consistency within the system

Meeting adjourned at 1030; Next meeting will be virtual again; Thursday, June 4th, 0800