

**REGIONAL PARAMEDIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HOAG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
February 2, 2007**

**A. Base Physician Medical Director – Dr. Greg Super- Excused**

**B. Paramedic Liaison Physician – Dr. Cloud**

- Dr. Cloud welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Stratton, and the new Fire Chief Steve Lewis for Newport Beach.
- Dr. Cloud to give lecture on Feb.15<sup>th</sup> on Cardiac Scenarios and 12 lead jeopardy.
- Dr. Cloud introduced Dr.Haskell and the following lecture on “ Code 60 Case Review”
- Dr. Cloud announced future dates for PALS and ACLS courses.

**C. Base Hospital Coordinator-Patti Lash R.N.**

- Discussion opened up regarding increased diversions and a study that showed requests for *Home hospitals* decreases the hours of diversion in the county.
- There is currently a County wide audit on 12 lead EKG’s for the purpose of field triage. Cathy Ord RN, EMS Manager NBFD has played a great part an integral role in the development and coordination of this audit. Fire Agencies, OCEMS and the Base Hospital Coordinators are collaborating on this effort.
- Dr. Ken Miller will interpret and be looking at the reliability of the monitors interpretation as well as missed STEMI’s due to artifact. The audit will also focus on the quality of EKG’s and minimizing artifact. The goal is accurate triage.
- West Med Anaheim has recently been designated the twelfth Cardiovascular Receiving Center in this County.
- Patti announced a new MICN class will begin at the end of this month and will be held at UCI. All of the Base Hospital Coordinators will be teaching this class.
- Reddinet IV will be implemented soon. Training is currently going on around the County. Reddinet IV is user friendly and resembles “Microsoft office” with added features for tracking influenza, trends, diversion and MCI’s. Start date should be sometime in March.
- Mentoring “Tips and Tricks” included familiarizing yourself with equipment not used routinely, DICE all medication with medic partner, obtain current list of meds and bring them to the hospital, become familiar with generic and brand name medications, thorough documentation of assessment, treatment and response, and using all tools available to verify ALS airway confirmation.

**D. Department Director-Carla Schneider R.N.**

- Hoag has formed a formal affiliation with CHOC that will significantly benefit the pediatric population of our community. Using robotic telemedicine technology, critical care specialists will be available to assist Hoag Emergency Physicians in

the evaluation and care of pediatric patients in the ECU. There will be an expansion of services available to include and expansion of Hoag Neonatal services with this new affiliation.

- Joanne Vanderpool RN introduced new graduates recently hired into our ECU: Alyssa Smith, April Geiser, Janay Petruna, Benjamin Weed, Chris Childress, Drew Motta.

**E. Receiving Center Reports**

- South Coast Hospital- Joni Taylor RN, Dept Director reports that their Hospital is preparing for JCAHO survey that is anticipated very soon. The next Paramedic Educational offering will be on assaultive behavior.

**F. Fire Dept Reports-**

- **Costa Mesa Fire Dept.** announced that Kirk Dominic and Keith Jones have been promoted to Battalion Chief.
- **Fountain Valley** states still working on 12 Lead process.
- **Huntington Beach** is in the process of hiring more medics, and purchasing the new 12 lead monitors. HBFD reports they have chosen Phillips monitors.
- **Newport Beach** acquiring new hires and giving promotions.
- **Mercy Air-** Terry Gay EMT-P states Mercy has purchased a new helicopter. They also have a new radio and believe that communications should be improved.

**G. Orange County EMS**

- Dr Stratton gave Kudos to Chief Lewis. Dr Stratton has worked with Chief Lewis in the past and attests to the Chief's support of Pre-Hospital Care.
- Beverly Nighswonger EMS report: Stroke Centers are being discussed by a consortium of physicians with-in the county. There are no designated Stroke Receiving Centers at the time. If a patient or family member requests a specific hospital due to hearing the hospital has a specialty, the request by the patient or family member should be honored.
- Cardiovascular Receiving Centers for Orange County are going into their second year. There have been greater than 300 patients entered into the data base. The door to balloon statistics look very successful. There is still a problem with field EKG acquisition and Dr. Stratton will be developing an educational opportunity to present at RPAC meetings.
- Discussion regarding the county policy to escort a patient ALS once a 12 lead EKG is initiated; whether this scenario may deter the medic from acquiring the 12 lead with an atypical presentation.
- Dr. Stratton remarked that the 12 lead issue carries a high liability-based on the interpretation of EKG.
- Patti Lash reminded us that a negative EKG does not mean the patient is not having a heart attack. There is a chance that a cardiac event may be evolving at the time. Patti calls a past scenario; Surfer with chest pain disregarded symptoms. Next day came to ECU-normal EKG. The patient did not look right. A repeat EKG came

back positive and the patient was taken to Cath Lab. The patient could have been discharged if not for the repeat EKG. 12 lead EKG's are a tool to get patients to the right facility. 12 Lead EKGs do not mean the patient is not having an MI.

- Dr. Stratton-continued discussion regarding the County wide 12 lead audit. He commented they should look at atypical chest pain patients; females, young, language barriers, cultural diversity. Dr. Stratton gave an example of a language barrier; the meaning of *sharp* pain might mean intense as opposed to pinpoint in the Hispanic Culture.
- Dr. Stratton stated that only 36% of EMS systems have 12 lead EKG programs nationally. LA County is just now introducing the program that Orange County has had now for about 3 years. Beverly Nighswonger mentioned that even if a 12 lead is negative for STEMI, a Base Physicians may override and still triage to a Cardiovascular Receiving Center.
- Dr. Stratton addressed *Home Hospital* requests for hospitals on diversion. A Patients request for home hospital should “trump” the diversion request. Patients cannot request home hospital if its life threatening. Medics are urged to use their gut feeling. Documentation on the process should be clear.
- Dr. Stratton mentioned that UCI is losing their helipad for 1 year due to construction beginning March. No decision has been made on an interim site.

Open Forum- no further comments. Following a five minute break a presentation on “Code 60 Updates” by Dr. Richard Haskell.

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**William Cloud, M.D.**  
**Paramedic Liaison Physician**

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**Patti Lash, R.N**  
**Base Hospital Coordinator**

**Hoag Memorial Hospital  
RPAC Minutes  
February 2, 2007**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Hoag**

Rowena Bernstein RN, MICN  
Debbie Eremita RN, MICN  
Zara La Clair RN, MICN  
William Cloud MD  
Nancy Rios RN, MICN  
Alyssa Smith  
April Geiser  
Janay Petruna  
Benjamin Weed  
Chris Childress  
Drew Motta  
Tonya Coster RN, MICN  
Patti Lash RN, MICN  
Bruce Sampson RN, MICN  
Patty Sampson RN, MICN  
Sonia Nelson RN, MICN  
Carla Schneider RN, MICN  
Phyllis Turner RN, MICN  
JoAnn Vanderpool RN, MICN  
Diane Whitcomb RN, MICN  
Cyndie Strader RN, MICN

**Costa Mesa**

Steve Feather  
Larry Grihalva  
Shawn Brossamer  
Pete Melfuza  
Henry Santo

**Huntington Beach**

Mark Daggett  
Justin Fleming  
Eric McCoy  
Andrew Crichton  
Scott Roozen

**Newport Beach**

Nick Stocks  
J.C.Nessa

**South Coast Med Center**

Joni Taylor RN  
Dr. Susan Munden

**OCEMS**

Beverly Nighswonger RN, MICN  
Dr. Sam Stratton

**ANAHEIM FIRE**

Brian Dimick

**MISSION HOSPITAL**

Bill Maley RN, MICN

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY**

John Suwanpruiksa  
Erin Wright  
Jeff Shah  
Tim Finucan

**WEST MED CNTR**

Gina Fetherstone RN, MICN

**ZOLL**

Catherine Prophet RN