



MISSION PARAMEDIC BASE HOSPITAL
Regional Paramedic Advisory Committee
April 13, 2007

Meeting called to order – Dr. Rick Kozak, 0900 hours

Approval of previous minutes – Handout

Old Business

- Home hospital / Diversion – At CPAC and Base docs it was strongly emphasized that home hospital requests trump diversion requests.
 - Dr. Kozak introduced Sam Stratton, M.D., the new medical director of OCEMS. He has made the possibility of a no-diversion trial one of his priorities.
 - Dr. Stratton is making a proposal to the Hospital Association the week after next, to start a 3-month trial of no-diversion, starting July 1. The diversion process conflicts directly with the home-hospital process. The home hospital process has much more research than diversion does, to support that it helps patient care and outcome. He's gotten some resistance to the proposal, especially from trauma surgeons, base physicians, and the hospital sector, so is not sure whether the trial will proceed.
 - Dr. Kozak says if the trial occurs, the consequent responsibility for shortening patient unload time should rest with the receiving facility and not with Prehospital. But he also says that that responsibility should be shared facility-wide, and not drop solely onto a hospital's ER. Dr. Kozak wants south county emergency departments to make use of the leadtime being given between now and the possible trial, to ensure that this responsibility is fairly distributed within their own facilities.
 - Jen Schollenberger, RN, asked if the trial would include trauma and neuro. Dr. Stratton said that that was the goal. Jen said she knows that Mission neurosurgery has concerns about such a trial, and asked if neurosurgical representatives have attended any of Stratton's meetings about a trial. Dr. Stratton said no.
- Stroke care – Dr. Kozak said the Orange County Stroke Association at UCI has recently been collecting comments on the possibility of having Stroke Centers in south Orange County. Dr. Kozak has sent them comments, and offered the hospitals present his email address so they might get the comments form from him to participate as well.
 - Dr. Stratton said that the group is supported by the American Heart Association. They have not made a proposal to OCEMS yet. Dr. Kozak said he had heard the group's goal was to have Stroke Centers set up within the next year. Dr. Stratton confirmed that this is their goal.

Individual and Committee Reports

- Base Hospital Services

- Coordinators Report – Tina Heinemann, RN, BSN, MICN
 - Tina pointed people to the second issue of the Base Hospital newsletter, and reminded the group of the No Fear conference on May 17.
 - She told medics that the next OC Fire CQI study will be on ET intubation. It will probably last two months. One of the things being studied is whether intubations are being done right, in response to some recent studies asserting that paramedics should not do intubations (they don't do them correctly and the intubations don't help patients). With the American Heart Association's guidelines changing, they are also becoming less invested in maintaining Advanced Airway. Tina said she's hoping the OC Fire CQI study will find that Advanced Airway should remain.
- Base Hospital Physician Directors – Dr. Kozak
 - Cardiac receiving centers – Base doc looked at the number of cases facilities have been getting (including walk-ins that needed to go straight to the cath lab), in the interest of preventing dilution of the system, and to show that facilities are keeping to ACC guidelines.
 - Aspirin use – Aspirin use was discussed and requested (by Base docs) to be brought back to the way it was before with cardiac-suspected and cardiac patients.
 - Interfacility transfers – Mission base doctors often get pulled into IFTs by hospitals calling 911 to transfer patients. This can be problematic, especially when a base doctor is asked to send a patient to a facility farther away than the next closest open hospital that can provide the needed level of care.
 - Karen Sharp Mickelson, manager of San Clemente ER, addressed Dr. Kozak's concern by saying on May 14 her hospital is bringing on 5 fulltime, 24-7 transport nurses, in-house, with the goal of eliminating the need to call 911 for transport.
 - Julie Wanstreet, cath lab manager at Saddleback, assured Dr. Kozak that her hospital is working very closely with San Clemente to assess triage and do what's best for the patient. She introduced Brian Stuckman, director of Cardiac Services at Saddleback, who is also involved in this work. She said she'd like to work with Mission's cath lab, to keep the doors open on both sides.
 - Dr. Kozak said Mission has designated its ER doctor as the point person for calls from other hospitals' doctors needing to know if Mission's cath lab is open.
 - Melissa Spear, RN, reminded everyone that Mercy Air is always available for transport as well.
- County Paramedic Advisory Committee Report – Capt. Joe Defort, EMT-P (absent)

Other Reports

- Trauma Center – Jennifer Schollenberger, RN, Mission Trauma Coordinator
 - Calendar year 2006 info is now in, and the total was 939 traumas. Mission still sees about 12-13% pediatric patients and 20-30% critical or red traumas (with ISS usually over 25; with ISS greater than 15, the percentage would be a bit higher). January and February 2007 volumes were a bit lower than usual, but March volume returned to closer to expected (mid-high 90s). Jen announced the new trauma room is up and running, with 4 bays open and ready to go.
 - There was a recent trauma nurse update, where MCI protocol was reviewed, so nurse expectations will be the same as the protocols medics follow in the field.

- A new internal system has been implemented for receiving Hoag calls, through Mission ED, which has improved communication (an identified fallout).
- In February Mission had a large-scale de-con drill, which went very well.
- Receiving Centers
 - Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center – Colette Baeza, RN, ER manager
 - Construction is complete, with five additional beds open and staffed.
 - Tina asked Ken to pass along the info to Ruth Grubb, so she can send a message out telling people that there is again a wall file in the Trauma Room for PCRs.
 - San Clemente Medical Center – No report.
 - South Coast – No report.
 - Saddleback Memorial – No report.
 - Irvine Medical Center – No report.
 - Orange County Fire Authority – Ken Miller
 - A 12-lead EKG acquisition decision study has begun, results of which may guide OCFA in establishing policies for when to do 12-leads.
 - A 12-lead EKG limb lead placement study has also started. This is one part of addressing reduction of 12-lead artifact, which can result in false positives. OCFA is looking to see whether there is a difference in artifact occurrence between leads placed on limbs and those placed on the torso. Around eight units are involved in the study. The study will start at a length of one month and be extended if more data is needed.
 - There will probably be CPI students, from the last CPI class, doing field internships. Eleven paramedic students from the Fire Authority are going to Saddleback (Ruth is doing orientation with them there today). 20 lateral paramedics are coming in by August.
 - The Fire CQI 12-lead EKG study is progressing. It will help OCFA to better connect field 12-lead EKG outcome and PCI outcome (both now share the same database). It may also augment data collected in the 12-lead EKG limb lead placement study.
 - OCFA is examining a stroke database to help address Stroke Center preparation issues.
- Emergency Transportation Providers
 - Medix – Walter Garcia
 - Medix didn't have a Acute Care Transport program for awhile, but does now.
 - Mercy – Melissa Spear
 - Mercy's Helicopter Safety Inservice (worth 2 CEs) will be held April 20, 23, 26, 27 and 30, and May 23. It has switched from Newport Beach Fire Station 3 to John Wayne Airport Station 33. Every day is the same, a morning session starting at 9:30 and running to 11 (aircraft there from 11:30-12) and an afternoon session starting at 12.

- EMSA Report – Greg Boswell, RN
 - An L.A. Times reporter is collecting information for a story similar to a series of articles that came out in the Sacramento Bee about paramedic licensing and practice issues. EMS considers QI/QA incident/complaint/licensing issues protected by the Evidence Code, as part of improving the system. One base hospital received a request for information from a reporter saying OC EMS had told them to contact the base, which was a misrepresentation. If you get a request like this, refer them to OC EMS and let OC EMS know.
 - A ROC (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium) trial is coming soon, and has generally good support from the fire departments. The first thing it would examine which EMS wants to participate in is a trauma-focused study of the use of hypertonic saline.
 - The state EMS authority is looking critically at Prehospital CE providers. The number of paramedics and EMTs being audited for their CE requirements has jumped significantly. If your hospital provides Prehospital CEs, be sure the CE slip meets all EMS guidelines. OC EMS is happy to review slips to ensure compliance. Submit them to Jane Elder or Patrick Powers.
 - Recently several OC EMS employees (and Mark Miller from the Sheriff's department) went to the Hospitals Association in Los Angeles to see the latest version of Reddinet, before it goes into production. Everyone is very pleased with it. The messaging system will be more robust and intuitive. It will be Internet-based, with radio as backup. Cardiac will be a form of diversion on the new version. Rollout is anticipated sometime in May.
 - For the record, EMS will support immediate call-continuance, if the paramedics on scene are at the hospital and the physician decides the patient needs a higher level of care. If the hospital the patient was then sent to filed an EMTALA violation against your hospital for this, EMS would support your hospital. This rarely becomes an issue unless 911 is called and asked to take an ER patient to a higher level of care without arrangement for it with the accepting hospital's physician.
 - Greg encouraged all nurses and medics present to attend the "No Fear" conference in May. EMS awards will be separate from the conference during EMS week this year.
 - The IFT forms have been revised and sent to ERs.
 - Beverly Nighswonger announced that Joni Taylor is leaving South Coast.
- New Business – No new business.

Inservice to Follow – Dr. Kwon

- Topic: Submersion

Approval of Minutes:

Approved - Signatures on File

RICK KOZAK, MD
Base Hospital Director

TINA HEINEMANN, RN
Base Hospital Coordinator