



Denver Metro EMS Medical Directors

MINUTES

St. Anthony's Hospital

March 6, 2013

1130 Hours

ATTENDANCE

American Medical Response	Nicholas Clayton, Brian Erling
Arvada Fire Protection District	David Mitchell
Children's Hospital Colorado	Maria Mandt, Lara Rappaport
Denver Health Medical Center	Kevin McVaney
Evergreen Fire Rescue	Bob Walter
Exempla EMS/Prehospital Services	Jeff Beckman, Dan Cheek, Ron Quaife
Exempla St. Joseph Hospital	Michelle Archuleta, T.K. Kennedy
Federal Heights Fire Department	Sean Ellis
Foothills RETAC	Linda Underbrink
Gilpin Ambulance Authority	Jamie Morgan, Dan Wall
HealthONE EMS	Dylan Luyten, Courtney Morton, Patricia Tritt
Mile High Ambulance	Mark Wilcox
Mountain View Fire Protection District	Twink Dalton
North Metro Fire	Ross Riley
North Suburban Medical Center	Mark Warth
North Washington Fire Department	Dave Baldwin
Northglenn Ambulance	Lori Ganem, Cathy Teter
Porter/Littleton/Parker Adventist Hospitals	Gene Eby, John Riccio, Dave Sanko
Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital, and Rose Medical Center	Todd Beirne
Pridemark Paramedic Services	Chris Mullberry
Regional Medical Liaison Group	Nick Boukas
St. Anthony Hospital	DJ Head, Gina Soriya, Pete Vellman
TMCA, EMS/Trauma Services	Chantel Benish, Erica Douglass, Michelle Loop
West Metro Fire Department	Kevin Schmidt
Westminster Fire	Tina Takahashi

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Pete Vellman called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The group welcomed Dr. Dan Cheek from Exempla EMS, Mark Wilcox of Mile High Ambulance, Courtney Morton from HealthONE EMS, Dan Wall from Gilpin Ambulance, and attorney Nick Beatty.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 9, 2013 meeting were approved.

BUSINESS

- **EMS Triage and Transport of Intoxicated Patients – Dr. Dave Ross, Penrose Hospital, Colorado Springs**

Dr. Ross discussed the concept of triaging chronic inebriates away from the Emergency Department. He and his colleagues developed a 29 point checklist to help Medics determine whether it is appropriate to bypass the ED and transport inebriated patients directly to Detox. This research was published in the February *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

Dr. Ross' presentation is posted on www.dmemsmd.org.

- **A Progressive Approach to Spinal Immobilization – Will Dunn**

Will discussed cervical spine injuries and the commonly held belief that moving a patient without spinal immobilization can lead to further injury or paralysis. New evidence questions whether patients should receive spinals at all and concludes that the entire concept of c-spine immobilization is faulty—that high-energy transfer does the damage; the low-energy normal range of motion does not affect stable or unstable injuries. New studies suggest that EMS can select who is a candidate for spinals and that the backboard/scoop is not always necessary; sometimes a c-collar is sufficient.

The National Association of EMS Physicians' position statement supports discontinuing the use of backboards. Dr. Vellman said that he concurs with this position.

- **Regional Medical Liaison Group Update – Nick Boukas**

Nick reported that protocols are on the website. Please bookmark the page, www.dmemsmd.org/protocols, rather than specific files, to make sure that you are viewing the most current version of the protocols.

- **Physician Group Updates – Dr. Pete Vellman**

- Dr. Eby reported that there is a new EMS provider certification tab on the CDPHE website. Direct any questions to Dr. Kanowitz.
- Kevin McVaney led a discussion about ketamine use in cases of excited delirium. It was stated that ketamine is not for use in the pediatric population. Dr. Vellman noted that every medical director may not approve its use for every agency.

- **Clinical Coordinator Updates – DJ Head**

- DJ announced that Mile High Ambulance is a new company providing service in Colorado. They have been in business less than a year.
- Chantel is no longer coordinating the protocol assessment committee. Two individuals will be replacing her at this meeting. They will be in attendance in May.

Protocol questions are ready for review by the physicians group and will be sent out in two weeks. The go-live date is June 1.

- The Coordinator meeting may be changed to quarterly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Due to scheduling constraints, the May meeting is on May 29, St. Anthony Hospital Aud A-D.
- July meeting is on July 3.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.