

Western Regional Trauma Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2007

Saint Patrick Hospital

Meeting attendance roster attached with original minutes.

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Dr. Janczewski. Review of the April meeting minutes. Committee approved minutes with no changes.

**SQI Presentations:** Cases presented for educational purposes by Robin Foley and John Bleicher.

**Old Business Triage Systems:** John Bleicher led a discussion about a potential system triage change in the western region. The proposal looks at triaging patients with “ACS trauma alert” criteria (abnormal physiology) to the highest trauma center within 30 minutes transport time versus the closest facility. In arrest situations, pre-morbid, or unable to ventilate, the patients would still go to the closest facility. Another option would be to look at a sub-set of patients with severe head injuries with a GCS of < 8 within 30 minutes transport time to the highest trauma center. Discussion took place regarding ACS trauma alert criteria and it was felt that there are too many variables of resources with the “alert criteria” and it would probably be best to start with the head injured patients with a GCS of <8. In addition, a discussion was held regarding problems with communication in the Phillipsburg area and a question was raised should the EMS providers transport to the higher level trauma center without discussion with medical control? Dr. Janczewski felt more discussion was needed and the issue was tabled and will be discussed again at the October meeting.

**State Report:** Jenny Nemec presented “Guidelines for the management of head injuries in remote and rural Alaska.” She asked everyone to review and look at the algorithms. The other 2 RTACS are discussing as well. Possibly, we could have a statewide consensus on the approach to managing head injured patients (when to obtain CT scans, when to transfer, and which patients need Neurosurgeon consultation).

**Education/Meetings:** Champions for Quality 7/28-29 in Helena to provide information for critical access hospitals and trauma designation. STACC 8/13 and 11/5. Central RTAC 7/26. Trauma System Conference in September. WRTAC to have a panel: the idea was to have the medical chair and secretary represent each region. Also, each region to bring an interesting educational case review. There will be a human simulator and an airway skills practice station.

State consults and designating still in progress and going well.

First quarter Collector registry data presented.

**Education/Finance (John Bleicher):** Last year 2 scholarships were given for each hospital and ambulance service for the Rocky Mountain Trauma Symposium. Committee voted and approved allowing 4 scholarships to each ambulance and hospital in the western region.

The TEAM course is still in progress. Beta courses have been completed and Jenny has received everyone's feedback and she is revamping as needed.

WRTAC "Trauma Tommy" Question was raised to pay someone to write a simple user's manual for the mannequin. If anyone has any interest or know someone who would like to do this, contact John.

John is continuing his trauma education modules, currently doing "head trauma." If any facility interested in this course, contact John.

The first annual MT/WY Trauma Coordinator's conference was well attended and very successful.

SPH 1<sup>st</sup> annual trauma mid-level conference in conjunction with Spring Fever was also well attended and successful. Planning is already in progress for next year. Ideas on speakers/topics, contact John.

**EMS/Medical Directors (Dr. Janczewski):** Dr. Janczewski has been working with the sub-committee to standardize the EMS report to promote good communication and efficient reporting. This format is in progress.

**Injury Prevention (Carolyn Bellamah/Bobbi Perkins):** The state is looking at formalizing an injury prevention plan for the future with specific goals.

The importance of the ETOH 10 minute brief interventions was discussed. This is a very simple means to approach trauma patients who have been injured while under the influence of ETOH and this has been proven in the literature to reduce recurrent trauma associated with ETOH.

Be aware of a new sandal made by the company "reef." These new sandals are made with an alcohol compartment in the bottom of the sandal.

#### **Area Trauma Updates:**

**Flathead:** Whitefish continuing with their designation process. Kalispell, Derek Starker has resigned from his position as Trauma Coordinator.

**Butte/Silverbow:** St. James is proceeding with their ACS Level III verification anticipated in May of 2008. Phillipsburg and Plains are progressing with their state consultation.

**Missoula:** Community Medical Center, Carolyn Bellamah has resigned from her position as Trauma Coordinator.

Next meeting October 12<sup>th</sup> @ Community Medical Center. Meeting adjourned.

