

MICU ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 12, 2001

- Call to Order:** (Dr. Nevins) The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Dr. Nevins introduced Susan Way, the new Director for the Office of Emergency Medical Services. She comes to OEMS with 12 years of management experience in the Department of Health and Senior Services and is very knowledgeable of the workings within the Department.
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 11, 2000 meeting were approved.
- OEMS Report:** (Ms. Way) Ms. Way announced that Rod Muench would be leaving OEMS at the end of March. She offered the Department's appreciation for his work as Director in OEMS for the past two years and wished him well in his future endeavors. Steven Bors was introduced as a new employee in OEMS and he will be working in the education section of the office. OEMS is currently recruiting for two positions of Public Health Representative for an EMS-C and an inspector position.
- Rapid Sequence Induction:** (Dr. Waxler) Dr. Waxler extended a thank you to all of the individuals that have been involved with the RSI program development. Dr. Waxler stated that the first train-the-trainer program went very well. The Department will run the next train-the-trainer program on March 27, 2001 in Hurffville, Gloucester County at the Hurffville Fire Department. MICU Programs can each send three individuals for training to this RSI program.
- Dr. Waxler conveyed that the medications for RSI would be on the elective list in the Department's regulations. There was discussion about whether to allow local adoption of specific medications for RSI or whether it is necessary to adopt RSI and all medications as a total package. The Medical Directors passed a motion that "If a medical director opts to adopt the RSI program, they must adopt all medications of the RSI program for a period of two years. At the end of the two year period, the Medical Director may review use of sedatives only and declare which sedative their MICU program will carry."
- Base Station Physician Education:** (Dr. Waxler) Dr. Waxler reported that the video is rapidly moving along. A casting call was held with New Jersey Network (NJN) for the physician roles in the video. We will be in production in the month of April with four case-based scenarios with narration of specific information that is important for the base station physician to know. The video will be completed by the end of May with delivery expected shortly after. It is also anticipated that the guidebook, which will accompany the video, will be completed while the video is in the editing process with NJN.
- Prehospital Research:** (Dr. Melnick) Dr. Melnick reported that the Attorney General's Office has rendered its opinion in regards to the prehospital research question. They determined from New Jersey law that research without consent is not possible in the prehospital arena. Now that they have given us this decision, we can use other methods and committees to place political pressure on different legislators to make research possible. The medical directors passed a motion "To have the MICU Council formally support legislative change allowing prehospital research without consent."
- Medications & Devices:** (Dr. Lahita) Dr. Lahita presented a number of medications, which were tabled for a vote at the last MICU Advisory Meeting due to the lack of a quorum. Each medication was addressed and described in detail from Dr. Lahita. The results of the committee are listed below:
- A motion to "Approve Amiodarone as an elective medication," **passed.**
 - A motion to "Approve Vasopressin as an elective medication," **passed.**
 - A motion to "Approve prepackaged Cyanide Poisoning Kit, containing: syringes, Amyl Nitrate, Sodium Nitrate, and Sodium Thiosulfate, as an elective medication," **passed.**

- A motion to “Move Lidocaine from the mandatory to the elective list” **failed**.
- A motion to “Move Procainamide from the mandatory to the elective list” **passed**.
- A motion to “Remove Bretylium from the medication list” **passed**.
- A motion to “Restrict the number of times a medication or device is presented to the MICU Advisory Council to once a year, unless significant change in it’s approved use, preparation, etc.” **passed**.
- A motion to “Emergently approve Nalmefene as an elective medication, only for use in the place of Naloxone when supplies are no longer available.” **passed**.

Dr. Nevins will write a letter to Commissioner Grant asking for emergency approval for the use of Nalmefene with the forecasted shortage of Naloxone.

Standing Orders:

(Dr. DesRochers)

Dr. DesRochers reviewed and introduced new Standing Orders to the Council. Dr. DesRochers expressed concerned that these need to be approved or not approved today due to the necessity for the publication of the regulations and the medical command guidebook. There was an extensive discussion and revisions made and voted on by the Council.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for Croup” **passed**.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for Bradycardia” **passed**.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for Pulseless Electrical Activity” **passed**.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for Asystole” **passed**.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for V-Fib/Pulseless V-tach” **passed**.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for Acute Myocardial Infarction” **passed**.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for Anaphylaxis” **passed**.

A motion to “Approve the presented standing order for Bronchospan” **passed**.

The new standing orders are attached for your review. Please remember that they cannot be implemented until adoption of the new regulations later this year.

Climate Control of Medications:

(Mr. McSweeney)

Mr. McSweeney discussed that the current version N.J.A.C. 8:41 is very vague in the mention of temperature regulation of medications stored in vehicles and will be reworked in the new version of the regulations. The issue that needed clarification was that medications and solutions have to be stored at the recommended temperature of the manufacturer; this range is usually 59°F - 77°F. Vehicles should maintain this temperature whether garaged or parked outside and while away from their vehicle site. There also should be a mean of recording the high and low temperatures on a daily basis.

New Jersey EMS Council:

(Dr. Pruden)

The committee on Diversion and Bypass submitted a plan addressing the issues facing the EMS agencies to Deputy Commissioner, Dr. George DiFerdinando. He will present the issues to Commissioner Grant in the near future with all the information that they have gathered.

There is a legislative commitment from Senator Vanderwalk to support a state bill to be introduced to cover the \$3.2 billion budget shortfall that is expected to occur with the new HCFA regulation implementation for MICU programs.

Legislation (Mr. Hogan) A2218, requiring an impact statement for any proposed regulation affecting volunteer ambulance squads and fire companies, has passed both houses, but was vetoed by Governor Whitman.

There is no other legislation that has moved forward at this time. Mr. Hogan praised Sue Caputo for her efforts for monitoring of the legislation activity.

New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs: (Mr. Hogan) A letter from New Jersey along with a multi-state letter is being sent to HCFA to show our unity with regards to the changes proposed by HCFA. Mr. Hogan stated that John Visokay is now the education chairperson for the program administrators.

Mr. Hogan reminded everyone to return the Team Excellence award ballots and also submit nominations for the annual EMS Week 2001 Awards sponsored by OEMS.

Helicopter Response Program: Dr. Hummel had no report.

Education: (Mr. Dinetz) Mr. Dinetz extended gratitude to Dr. Lahita and Jim Mondoro for the work with the National Registry they have been doing. During the Paramedic Test held last Saturday, many of the students seemed to be having difficulty with their Intraosseous drug / drip rate calculations as well as with the Oral Station.

(Mr. Mondoro) 19 students took the test (1 was a single station retest). There were 10 partial failures and 8 full passes. The majority of students are weak in their pediatric skills and medication calculations.

Other business: (Dr. Nevins) Dr. Pruden and Martin Hogan will be heading up the nominations committee, if anyone else is interested, please contact one of them prior to the next Council meeting, which will be held on June 11, 2001.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Next Meeting

**June 11, 2001 at 10 A.M.
New Jersey Hospital Association
Princeton, New Jersey**