



Emergency Medical Services Council



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Operations and System Communications Committee

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Online

<https://www.hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/ems-planning-reg>

Draft Summary

Present	Absent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tony Martin (Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Primary Dispatch), Chair 2. Mark Anderson, Ridgeview Ambulance Service 3. Tony Ebensteiner, North Memorial Ambulance 4. Dan Klawitter (West MRCC) 5. Pete Tanghe, MD (North Memorial Health Ambulance) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shaun White, Edina Fire EMS 2. Dale Specken, Hopkins Fire Dept. Chief; Hennepin County Fire Chiefs Assoc. 3. Charlie Sloan, Hennepin EMS 4. Kevin Miller, Allina Health EMS
Guests	Staff
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tyler Lupkes, Hennepin EMS and MESB 2. Brent Custard, North Memorial Health Ambulance 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kristin Mellstrom

1) Welcome and Introductions – Chair Tony Martin called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum present. Today’s agenda and the meeting summary from July 9, 2024 were approved.

2) Review of Seats on Committee, Nominations

No new nominations to review

3) Hospital Destination Matrix

A matrix that was reviewed by this committee and pared down to provide the most important information about hospital capabilities to assist EMS in transport

decisions is being updated. In the new matrix, some fields that provided detailed information, such PCI-capable hours if a hospital did not have 24-7 team available, will be simplified to a binary yes or no. This should decrease any confusion and avoid unanticipated transfers of patients when an ED does not have the resources needed to evaluate and treat the patient.

The committee recommends that this would be a guidance document that could be adjusted as needed in real time, to help EMS bring patients to EDs that can meet the needs of the patient and prevent secondary transfers when possible.

Dan and Kristin will work on updating the data for each hospital. More discussion of how and where to save the data will continue. Most EMS Providers plan to upload this to their online protocol apps, so EMS would need an alert if there are changes made to the primary matrix document that saved online by the MRCC or the EMS Council.

4) Communications Updates (standing item)

- **MIST report**
The MIST report was reviewed and supported by the EMS Medical Directors Committee; this committee also encourages all EMS Providers to use this type of report at the patient hand-off to ensure that critical patient information is provided to the ED at each patient transfer. Staff will send out the version that is endorsed by the MESB as a reference. Most EMS providers already use this or a version that's very similar to it.

- **EMS Council Communications Policy**
This policy is due for a review to determine what data elements should be included in each patient information relay. Dan has been working with the East MRCC to align patient reports. Both MRCCs have agreed to the same set of data elements and an MRCC format document is being printed by the MESB for the region. Dan offered to edit the communications policy to match what the MRCC document uses and bring the changes back to the committee. <https://emsmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/MRCC-Communication-Card-2024.pdf>

Tyler also noted that the MESB Emergency Preparedness Committee has finalized the regional Incident Response Plan (IRP), which could be identified in the EMS Council Communication Policy. https://emsmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/EMS-IRP-2023_Approved.pdf

- Tyler added that the MESB/metro region is reviewing the Ten Second Triage (TST) format for personnel in the field and is likely to formally recommend its use in the future. <https://emsmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/10-Second-Triage.pdf>

- Beacon Mutual - MESB is funding Beacon Mutual and other Beacon products for three years to get the web-based, HIPAA-compliant information sharing platform established. Hennepin and Allina EMS are on board, and Dan K. would like to add North Memorial and Ridgeview. As more agencies input data into the system, it will help all west metro EMS agencies for mutual aid coordination, situational awareness generally, and resource tracking in large incidents. Each EMS agency has complete control over their resources and which ones are uploaded to Beacon Mutual. Eventually, if this platform works well with the different CAD systems, it will be offered to non-metro EMS providers too.
- Beacon ED- The other product that Hennepin Healthcare HCMC ED has been using is the ED version that provides data on all incoming rigs to that ED with codes and ETAs so special teams can be alerted for specific patients and know when the patient will arrive.
- Beacon Major – This is a new product that hasn't been piloted yet, but the purpose is to view which units are assigned to incidents and to track where the resources and the staging areas are. As more incidents happen, this tool would be a good addition to be able to share data in real time.

5) Monthly Radio Checks

Dan (West MRCC) has been coordinating monthly radio checks that were required by the Medical Control Standards for Hospitals and Physicians. Over the past ten years, the use of radios has decreased on a daily basis but more large-scale events are occurring that require radio calls for medical control.

Currently, the monthly radio checks are typically completed by one or two people from each ED who know where the radio is and how to operate it, however, the goal of the radio checks was to ensure that most hospital ED staff would gain these skills so they could successfully communicate medical control information via the radio.

Dan recommends changing the checks so they're completed at random times, maybe with Zipit incorporated, so more staff in each ED are trained to use the medical control talk group on the radios. A guidance document could also be created to help prompt ED staff on how to operate their type radio. Dan has helped several EDs with technical issues and training on radio operation, however, with different types of radio consoles at EDs, it can be confusing for staff who have used another type of radio when working at a different hospital. Specific instructions for the type of radio at each ED may be more helpful.

6) Public Education

No updates

7) Equipment Exchange

No updates

8) Partner Agency Reports

No updates

9) Legislative Updates

No updates

10) The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Meetings

Second Tuesday of Jan., April, July, Oct. from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. online