



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES **MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes of January 23, 2006 meeting

A meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Medical Advisory Board was held on January 23, 2006, at the Daytona Beach International Airport – Volusia Room, Daytona Beach, Florida. Dr. Peter Springer, EMS Medical Director called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Members present:

- Dr. Jerry Brand, Volusia County Health Department
- Dr. Charles Eaves, E/D Medical Director, Florida Hospital Memorial Division
- Peter Springer, M.D., Volusia County EMS Medical Director
- Arlen Stauffer, M.D., Bert Fish Medical Center
- Tracey Weiner, M.D., Florida Hospital – DeLand

Guests present:

- Mike Coffin, Volusia County Sheriff's Dept. – Air One
- Beverly Johnson, Transfer Center Coordinator, Halifax Medical Center
- Mike Mellon, EVAC Ambulance
- Randall Mitchell, E/D Director, Florida Hospital Memorial System
- Rebecca Nave, Emergency Department Manager, Florida Hospital Ormond Memorial
- Elizabeth Pendry, Stroke Coordinator, Florida Hospital Ormond Memorial
- Reatha Tellis, Stroke Coordinator, Halifax Medical Center
- Matt Zavadsky, Volusia County EMS Director

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Springer opened the meeting with introductions.

STEMI Study:

Dr. Stauffer advised that the study is in place and under way as of January 1, 2006. He announced the hiring of an intern by the Volusia County EMS Department who will be in charge of collecting and entering the study data for analysis.

EMS System Performance Statistics:

Matt Zavadsky handed out a series of charts and tables depicting the overall performance of the 1st Responder and transport agencies within Volusia County concentrating on response times for Emergency vs. Non-Emergency calls. Matt explained that some dispatch centers are dispatching calls as Emergency or Non-emergency based on EMS Medical Directors approved EMD protocol. In doing so, not all calls are going out lights and sirens which can save lives by not adding undue risk to the public. The dispatch centers that are participating in this have decreased the emergency calls from 95% to 60% of emergency responses, which Matt would like to see at 50-55% stating that the Volusia County data shows a 30-45 second time difference between Emergency and Non-emergency.

Matt also discussed the intubation skills proficiency is down to under 50% and asked ways in which the paramedics can maintain their skill. Dr. Springer asked for ideas and suggestions to be thought of for discussion at the next meeting.

Stroke Alert Protocol:

Dr. Springer stated that the main goal for the remainder of the meeting was to discuss appropriate transport for stroke patients in regards to the new Stroke Alert Protocol. Florida Statute states "transport stroke patients to the most appropriate hospital". Dr. Springer wanted to seek consensus regarding designation of the most appropriate hospital. He advised that Florida Hospital Ormond Memorial is now a certified Stroke Center and that Halifax Hospital is awaiting official paperwork and should be certified very shortly.

There was extensive discussion concerning treatment options, mode of transportation and the best facility for these patients to go in order to get the best possible outcome. Consensus was reached that all patients meeting Stroke Alert criteria in the pre-hospital setting will be transported to either Florida Hospital Ormond Memorial or Halifax Medical Center, whichever is the closest appropriate facility. It was also agreed upon, that at the discretion of on-scene EMS providers; air transport may be called for transportation to Halifax Medical Center. Air transport is not an option for Florida Hospital Ormond, as there is not currently an FAA approved landing site. This option should be used very rarely based on extended ground transport times.

Concern was expressed by Florida Hospital Memorial Division, Florida Hospital Deland and Bert Fish Medical Center that Stroke Alert patients from their facilities need to be expeditiously transported to Halifax Medical Center. After extensive discussion, the Medical Advisory Board recommended that the same process currently used for inter-hospital Trauma Alert patients be used for Stroke Alert patients.

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Tellis concurred with this recommendation and stated they would draft a similar policy for the Stroke Alert patients.

Adjournment:

Being of no further business, the EMS Medical Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.