

## Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council

Stroke Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 24, 2019  
10:00am



City of Fairfax Fire Station 403  
4081 University Drive  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Those present were: (\* indicates by phone)

Tarahn Aiesi, HCA StoneSprings Hospital Center, [Tarahn.aiesi@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:Tarahn.aiesi@hcahealthcare.com)  
Laith Altaweel, MD, Inova Fairfax Hospital, [laith.altaweel@inova.org](mailto:laith.altaweel@inova.org)  
Amy Baker, Inova Loudoun Hospital, [amy.baker2@inova.org](mailto:amy.baker2@inova.org)  
Rick Bonnett, MWAA, [Richard.bonnett@mwa.com](mailto:Richard.bonnett@mwa.com)  
Everett Embrey, MD\*. Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, [eclayiii@gmail.com](mailto:eclayiii@gmail.com)  
Craig Evans, Northern Virginia EMS Council, [craig@vaems.org](mailto:craig@vaems.org)  
Mark Guditis, Inova Fairfax Hospital, [mark.guditis@inova.org](mailto:mark.guditis@inova.org)  
Alison Haines\*, Novant Health UVA PW Medical Center, [ahaines@novanthealth.org](mailto:ahaines@novanthealth.org)  
Rob Horton, American Heart Association, [rob.horton@heart.org](mailto:rob.horton@heart.org)  
Brian Hricik, Alexandria Fire Department, [brian.hricik@alexandriava.gov](mailto:brian.hricik@alexandriava.gov)  
Mary Jobson-Oliver, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital [mary.jobson-oliver@inova.org](mailto:mary.jobson-oliver@inova.org)  
Kate Kramer, Arlington County Fire Department, [kkramer@arlingtonva.us](mailto:kkramer@arlingtonva.us)  
Pam Leins, HCA StoneSprings Hospital, [pamela.leins@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:pamela.leins@hcahealthcare.com)  
Meghan Lloyd, Inova Fairfax Hospital, [Meghan.lloyd@inova.org](mailto:Meghan.lloyd@inova.org)  
Patricia Moreno, Anthem Healthkeepers Plus (VA Medicaid)  
John Morgan, MD\*, Loudoun County Fire & Rescue, [john.morgan@loudoun.gov](mailto:john.morgan@loudoun.gov)  
Dimitrios Papadouris, MD, Inova Alexandria/Sentara NV Medical Center,  
[dpapadouris@gmail.com](mailto:dpapadouris@gmail.com)  
Kate Passow, Physicians Transport Service, [kate.passow@amr.net](mailto:kate.passow@amr.net)  
Alison Pinch\*, Inova Alexandria Hospital, [Alison.pinch@inova.org](mailto:Alison.pinch@inova.org)  
Aaron Schutt, City of Manassas Park Fire Department, [a.schutt@manassasparkva.gov](mailto:a.schutt@manassasparkva.gov)  
Jean Snyder\*, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, [Regina.snyder@inova.org](mailto:Regina.snyder@inova.org)  
Neha Sullivan, Prince William County Fire & Rescue, [nsullivan@pwcgov.org](mailto:nsullivan@pwcgov.org)  
Jill Tyroler\*, Reston Hospital Center, [jtyroler@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:jtyroler@hcahealthcare.com)  
Laura Vandegrift, Northern Virginia EMS Council, [laura@vaems.org](mailto:laura@vaems.org)

The meeting was started at 10:10 am by Craig Evans.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes from June 4, 2019, meeting were sent out by email for review. There were no changes or correction noted and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **DISCUSSION:**

**Pulsara Update:** Pulsara has announced a free version of the product called Pulsara One which works between the EMS to ED phases of the alert. It does not activate the Stroke Team from the ED as was seen in the previous demonstration. If you are interested, you can again reach out to Forrest Winslow at [forrest.winslow@pulsara.com](mailto:forrest.winslow@pulsara.com)

### **AHA Regional Data Update**

Rob Horton provided an update with CY2019 Q2 data. A copy of that information is attached to the minutes.

- There have been no widespread changes with the data in comparison to other quarters.
  - Northern Virginia is still typically above Virginia and the rest of the country on all measures.
- The AHA is still working on data agreements with the Council at this time.
  - This will allow the Council to mine data regionally and produce reports for viewing at the meetings
- There was a recent email sent about prehospital care measure updates. A copy of the live recording is available for those interested
- Rob will send out a blinded report that will break out the data by reporting facility

### **Virginia Stroke Systems Task Force (VSSTF) Update**

- The next VSSTF meeting is Friday, October 18, 2019
- At the most recent meeting, they determined a need for stroke champions in the state and divided the state into 11 regions to coincide with the Regional EMS Councils. Craig is heading the group and has reached out to stroke physicians, nurses and coordinators in Northern Virginia to compile our regional stroke champions. He is still compiling names and if anyone is interested, please contact him directly at [craig@vaems.org](mailto:craig@vaems.org). You will only need to attend meetings of interest or that you have input on. Additionally, if you have any topics you'd like discussed, email Craig.

### **TPA Transfer Form**

Kate Passow from Physicians Transport Service advised there was a state-issued TPA Transfer form. It appears the last update was 2016.

- It's designed for the hospitals to use when they initiate tPA in a patient they intend to transfer. It is then passed on to the transporting agency to use during the transport and handoff at the arriving facility.
- PTS incorporated this form into their stroke protocols and their providers are taught this form.
- During recent conversations with the hospitals and stroke coordinators, she's finding they're familiar with this form but there is a question as to who provides and starts the form. Ali from Inova Alexandria Hospital advised she has never seen this form and Kate advised many of their medics are saying they do not receive it when picking up a tPA transfer patient at most hospitals.

- The form is to be started by the transferring hospital when tPA is initiated
- The form is not provided by PTS or any other transporting agency provider
- Amy Baker advised the form is too long and needs revision and simplification. Craig asked for a group from all facets (MD, EMS, hospital) to review and revise the form. Dr. Altaweel also advised this is a good time to add the Door In/Door Out (DIDO) times. The following will form this committee:
  - Dr. Laith Altaweel – Inova Fairfax Hospital
  - Pam Leins, EMS Liaison – HCA StoneSprings Hospital
  - Kate Passow – PTS
  - Meghan Lloyd, RN Stroke Coordinator – Inova Fairfax Hospital
  - Alison Haines, RN Stroke Coordinator – Novant Prince William Medical Center
  - Stephanie Fitch, RN Stroke Coordinator

### **Post Stroke Care Presentation**

Lauren Schwabish, MS, CCC-SLP from Inova Mount Vernon provided a presentation on post-stroke care. A copy of the presentation is attached.

### **Regional Stroke System Review & Roundtable**

Craig asked that the group provide any updates for their hospital or agency and if they could also speak on EMS & hospital stroke triage. What is everyone using? Is there a pit-stop?

- Pam Leins from HCA StoneSprings advised they are activating a Stroke Alert by EMS's scale at the time of pre-arrival reporting. They do not use a specific scale there. At StoneSprings, their last three tPA administrations were less than 45 minutes each. EMS does a quick pit-stop in the ED en route to CT.
- Kate Kramer from Arlington County Fire Department advised they use the Cincinnati Stroke Scale and LA Motor Score for LVOs. Virginia Hospital Center uses LAMS at triage. There is no ED pit-stop, they go direct to CT with the patient on the EMS stretcher. VHC is mechanical thrombectomy intervention capable.
- Aaron Schutt from the City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue advised they use the Cincinnati Stroke Scale and call a code stroke to the ED if positive. They transport primarily to Prince William or Fairfax (by helicopter)
- Mark Guditis from Inova Fairfax Hospital advised they do a quick pit-stop at the door with EMS.
- Dr. Laith Altaweel from Inova Fairfax Hospital added that they use a modified Cincinnati Stroke Scale and use EMS's scale. If there is none, they ask follow up questions.
  - Starting 1/1/2020 the stroke nurse currently in ED triage goes back to the neuro department and the person responding to stroke alerts will be an Advanced Practice Provider

- For transfers, they are trying to streamline the process with the communications team by getting the attending and PTS on the line at the same time
- Dr. Dimitrios Papadouris from Inova Alexandria and Mount Vernon and Sentara Northern VA Medical Center advised they all, do pre-alerts. Sentara has teleneuro that is available within 5 minutes of the prehospital alert being called.
  - Sentara and Mount Vernon use the same interventionalists
  - With PTS being called early, they are decreasing their transfer times from Mount Vernon
    - Sentara's times are better than they were a year ago
- Meghan Lloyd from Inova Fairfax Hospital advised they're hoping to have their Comprehensive Stroke Center certification by May 2020
  - Inova Alexandria is working on mechanical thrombectomy capable certification
  - Kate Kramer advised VHC is working on Comprehensive Stroke Center status as well
- Craig asked if all hospitals are Rapid Ready.
  - All Inova Hospitals are
  - HCA is not yet
  - Sentara is researching but may choose another comparable option
- Brian Hricik from Alexandria Fire Department advised they use the Cincinnati Stroke Scale first, if positive, they use LAMS for LVO.
  - 98% of their transports are to Inova Alexandria Hospital
- Rick Bonnett from MWAA advised they also use the Cincinnati Stroke Scale and if it's positive 3:3 they call an LVO
- Dr. Neha Sullivan from Prince William County Fire & Rescue advised they use the Cincinnati Stroke Scale but have no LVO scale in place at this time
- Kate Passow from PTS advised they have implemented at Inova Mount Vernon and are working on Inova Fair Oaks Hospital to have the EDs call as early as possible to get a Medic Unit at the bedside as early as possible to reduce transfer times.
- Ali Pinch from Inova Alexandria Hospital advised they are doing TPA in the CT as previously mentioned.
  - In Q1, their times are under 45 minutes with an average time of 33 minutes
  - Last Known Well time is an issue with times, etc., and not just as reported by EMS. It's also difficult to get an accurate LKW from family, caregivers, etc.

The last meeting of 2019 will be held at Fire Station 403 on Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am**

CERTIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL STROKE COMMITTEE MEETING

Northern Virginia EMS Council  
7250 Heritage Village Plaza, Suite 102  
Gainesville, Virginia 20155

I, Craig Evans, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia EMS Council certify that the above minutes are a true and correct transcript of the meeting minutes of the Regional Stroke Committee held on September 24, 2019. The minutes were officially approved on December 3, 2019.

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Craig A. Evans

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Date