

Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council

Meeting Minutes

EMS/Pharmacy Committee
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
10:00 am



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

Attendees: (Alphabetical Order by last name) * indicates by phone

- Gill Abernathy* – Pharmacy Manager, Inova Health System
- Daniel Acosta, Captain EMS Operations, Prince William County Fire & Rescue
- Jamie Cooper, EMS Battalion Chief, Loudoun County Fire & Rescue
- Craig DeAtley, Assistant OMD, Fairfax County Police Helicopter Division
- Millicent Deya* – Pharmacist, Novant Health/UVA
- Craig Evans – Executive Director, Northern Virginia EMS Council
- Mark Guditus, EMS Liaison, Inova Fairfax Hospital
- Brian Hricik – EMS Battalion Chief, Alexandria Fire Department
- Anne Marsh – EMS Battalion Chief, Arlington County Fire Department
- Leonard Mascaro – EMS Program Manager, VA Office of EMS
- Brian Orndoff – EMS Program Manager, City of Fairfax Fire Department
- Dustin Rice, Captain EMS Operations, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue
- Carole Tucker*, Pharmacist in Charge, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
- Scott Weir, MD – Operational Medical Director, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue
- Beth Wren*, Pharmacy Manager, Reston Hospital Center

Meeting Called to Order – 10:15 am

The minutes from October 22, 2019, meeting were sent out by email for review. There were no questions, corrections or discussion.

- A motion was made by Anne Marsh and seconded by Brian Hricik
- The minutes were unanimously approved.

Federal and State Updates

- There are no known federal or state level updates at this time.

EMS Pharmacy Policy

Dr. Weir advised that he heard of a recent issue with drug exchanges in Loudoun County

- Jamie Cooper advised that Inova Loudoun hospitals and the Healthplexes have been instructed to only exchange or dispense ketamine to Loudoun County EMS Supervisors, as it is not in their protocols for all field paramedics to be able to administer it. Only supervisors can perform RSI which is what this drug is utilized for in Loudoun County.
 - This is only CSK kits for Inova Loudoun hospitals (Loudoun, Cornwall, Ashburn, etc.), not system-wide and was for Loudoun County providers only

- There was some misunderstanding that the pharmacies were not to dispense it even to agencies outside of Loudoun County Fire & Rescue
- There was a recent incident where a Fairfax County unit transported to a Loudoun hospital and was denied the exchange of ketamine as a result of this protocol with Loudoun County EMS providers.
- New instructions have been given to pharmacies to dispense ketamine to any non-Loudoun County EMS providers
 - This will create a change to how the medication bags are prepared locally and there will be some lag time in getting the complete bags prepared and available for dispensing
- Dr. Morgan is considering moving forward with changing Loudoun County's protocols to add ketamine since there is a reduction in backorders and shortages of that drug
- A concern for Fairfax County is that they can be given ketamine by the Inova Loudoun hospitals but it is not in a sealed bag/CSK kit, it is handed to them separately.
 - At this point, they are going to another facility to exchange the sealed bag and unsealed ketamine for a sealed bag with ketamine enclosed, which creates extra stops and extra paperwork.
 - It is hopeful that this won't continue for an extended time since the pharmacies have been briefed that Fairfax County units are to be given CSK kits with the ketamine enclosed in the bag.

Regional Forms Review

- All changes to the forms identified in the last meeting have been made and the updated forms were sent out for review.
- The following were questions and requests for change on the current forms dated November 1, 2019.
 - Millie Deya from Novant Health requested that the ratios be removed from Epinephrine and leave only the concentrations
 - Example: remove (1:10,000) and leave only 1mg/10mL PFS
 - The group was in agreement to **remove the ratios from Epinephrine and display only the concentration**
 - Anne Marsh from Arlington County Fire Department asked that Celecoxib (Celebrex) 200mg tablet be added to the form as they use this in Arlington County
 - The group was in agreement to **add Celecoxib (Celebrex) 200mg tablet to the form**
 - There was additional discussion as to the **preference of the Operational Medical Directors on their second line anti-emetic in the field after Zofran** as the pharmacies are looking to remove promethazine from their formularies altogether due to complications.
 - The pharmacies recommend Compazine as a second line over promethazine but asked to query the OMDs so we may add an appropriate medication to the list when the pharmacies no longer stock promethazine
- A question was raised on whether to remove racemic epinephrine.
 - Both Alexandria and Prince William County still use racemic epinephrine
 - Alexandria used it 10 times last year
 - PWC used it 25 times last year
 - It was determined to not remove it since there are agencies still using it often

Drug Shortages

- All pharmacies report shortages of:
 - D50
 - Sodium Bicarbonate
 - Calcium Chloride – episodically available
 - Rocuronium bromide
 - One brand is available but on national shortage
 - Epinephrine pre-filled syringes
- There are no known shortages of drugs in the Controlled Substance Kits
 - Dustin Rice from Fairfax County Fire & Rescue asked about the availability of Tetracaine eye drops
 - They recently had trouble at both Inova Fair Oaks and HCA Reston getting them
 - Per Gil Abernathy, Inova Fair Oaks recently had an order for Tetracaine this month, so this must have been an error. Dustin is advised to check back with IFOH again
- Millie Deya from Novant asked whether the agencies will accept a bag when they run out of D50 syringes
 - The group agreed that they'll use whatever tools they're given at the pharmacy as long as the concentration is correct and they have the correct equipment needed to administer it (syringes, etc.)
 - Dr. Weir advised they're not planning to remove it from protocols in his locality

Open Discussion/Roundtable

- Brian Hricik advised that George Washington University Hospital is no longer exchanging drugs for any Virginia EMS agencies and they are going back to their closest local hospital to exchange their drugs
 - Gil Abernathy advised that they were not yet made aware of that but they are willing to exchange the drugs as long as they can validate the call with an appropriate run sheet
 - Dr. Weir had a copy of the letter they received from GWUH regarding this change and is forwarding it to the Council for distribution
 - There are some concerns with EMS licensing and actually being able to carry drugs on a unit not licensed or registered in the District of Columbia based on the letter
 - The OMDs will look further into the validity of this and what changes need to be made within their own organizations because nearly all Northern Virginia agencies transport burn patients to DC and this could create significant problems. There is also a question of whether this is covered under the Mutual Aid agreement in certain circumstances
- Dr. Weir asked if any other agencies are using TXA for different uses
 - Brian Hricik from Alexandria advised they use it topically for epistaxis
 - No one is using it for GI bleeds presently, based on those at the table reporting

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am

CERTIFICATION OF PHARMACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Northern Virginia EMS Council
7250 Heritage Village Plaza, Ste. 102
Gainesville, VA 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 minutes of a meeting of the Pharmacy Committees of the Northern Virginia EMS Council held at the City of Fairfax Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on February 25, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called and held in all respects in accordance with the laws of the state of Virginia and bylaws of the corporation and that a quorum was present. The minutes were officially approved at the October 27, 2020, meeting of the Pharmacy Committee of the Northern Virginia EMS Council.

Craig A. Evans
Executive Director
Northern Virginia EMS Council

Date