

Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council Meeting Minutes

EMS/Pharmacy Committee
Thursday, August 17, 2023
11:00 am



VIA ZOOM

Attendees: (Alphabetical Order by first name)

Adam Lieb, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue
Alfred Pacifico PA-C, Loudoun County Fire & Rescue
Andrew Duke, Alexandria FD
Billy Barton, City of Manassas Fire & Rescue
Brian Orndoff, City of Fairfax Fire Department
Chip Morrison, PW County Fire & Rescue
Cindy Esterline, Inova Health System
Debbie Wagner, Inova Loudoun Hospital
Diane Buckley, Sentara NVMC
Elizabeth Wren, HCA Reston
Gary Hubble, MWAA
Gill Abernathy, Inova Health System
James Cooper, Loudoun County
Jennifer Reeve, UVA Haymarket
Karen Dunavant, StoneSprings Hospital
Kari Scantlebury, Fairfax County PD
Kate Kramer, Arlington FD
Laura Vandegrift, NVEMSC
Lee Warner, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue
Michelle Ludeman, NV EMS Council
Nancy Nystrom, Virginia Hospital Center
Natalie Gue, UVA Culpeper
Nelson Mascarenhas, Fairfax County Fire
Nouly Phommachanh, UVA Prince William Medical Center
Paul Earley, Arlington County Fire Dept
Philippa Durham, Fairfax Co Fire & Rescue
Ray Whatley, NVEMSC
Rosa Delgado, MMT
Ruth Wright
Scott Weir, FCFRD OMD
Steve Kling, Inova Fairfax

Meeting Called to Order – 11:02 am

Medication Shortages

- Cindy Esterline from Inova Health System
 - OK on atropine for now
 - No new inventory for the Ketamine that they are using for EMS mainly
- Nancy Nystrom from Virginia Hospital stated they are in the same situation and wouldn't be able to exchange many for EMS units
 - Have not received additional inventory, rationing low inventory to any EMS bags, not using in-house
 - Have 200/20 and this is more available as a resource for hospital usage
 - Atropine they are fine
- Ray stated that EMS should be prepared for changes in atropine concentrations
 - Would encourage EMS to have alternate protocols in case ketamine can't be filled or to switch out to other drugs for pain control or agitated patients

A question came from the EMS Pharmacy Policy, where it states that the agencies are expected to audit drugs and notify their home pharmacy monthly. Ray sent an email to the agency leadership on this last night. The Council pulled a report on what medications were given on calls in the region. For pharmacists, what are you looking to get from this? How much, what drug, date of call?

- Gil Abernathy stated that the Medical Director needs to certify that they have audited administrations of controlled substances and that they were medically appropriate with no concerns about waste, abuse, etc.
 - Karen Dunavant from StoneSprings added that they need to know audits are being done because if the Board of Pharmacy asks for it, they need to be able to show it and say they know that EMS is doing appropriate audits. It's more difficult to do it during an audit in a timely manner, and since the pharmacies don't know every agency's protocols, they can't tell if there are any standard deviations
 - Nancy Nystrom from VHC said they really need to know how many reports were reviewed in the audit, what doses you reviewed in what drugs, and how many of those patients did you review charts to review categories of appropriate use, documentation of controlled substance usage, and waste was captured.
 - Karen Dunavant also stated that if an agency starts an investigation, the pharmacy needs to know about that. For example, over-usage by a specific provider, questionable waste of meds, etc.
 - Gil added that the drugs belong to the hospital, so they have the need to report to the DEA, and they must be notified in the event of these issues
 - Jamie Cooper from Loudoun County Fire & Rescue said they run a monthly audit for 100% of drugs used, and it's stored in their QA/QI office. They haven't been pushing those reports to the hospitals, but they can do that, they just don't want to be redundant about it. If there is an event, overuse, misuse, etc., they notify and involve the pharmacies very early on in the process. They get medications from 3 pharmacies, so there is some legwork on that, but they involve them in the investigation. He does not believe they are alone in that process of engagement with the hospitals. He is happy to share a copy of their audit with others if needed.
 - Dr. Weir stated that maybe we could include this in the PI meetings twice a year and this would be two of the quarterly audits.

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The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

CERTIFICATION OF PHARMACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Northern Virginia EMS Council
7250 Heritage Village Plaza, Ste. 102
Gainesville, VA 20155

I, Laura Vandegrift, Administrative Coordinator 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 Committee of the Northern Virginia EMS Council held via Zoom on August 17, 2023, 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 November 30, 2023 meeting of the Pharmacy Committee of the Northern Virginia EMS Council.

Laura Vandegrift _____

Laura Vandegrift

11/30/2023 _____

Date