

**Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee**  
**March 19, 2008** **Chef's Restaurant**

**Minutes from the January, 2007 meeting were previously distributed via e-mail and hard copy. Several members have stated that they did not receive them. A. Major will re-send them. This has been tabled, until all members can review the minutes again.**

**Attendance: See attached**

**Correspondence: J. Takats**

- 1/14/08** STEMS to Dr. J. Takats announcement of Spring Training titled Legal Aspects of EMS and Geriatric Prehospital Care to be held 3/28/08 and 3/29/08 at the Premier Banquet Center in Olean.
- 1/16/08** Letter from Ed Mager to Ischua Fire Department outlining several deficiencies and requesting written plan of correction.
- 1/28/08** Boston Emergency Squad Inc. to WREMAC relating their ability to perform a 12 Lead EKG but is unable to transmit until they take delivery of new Zoll units 2/08
- 1/30/08** NYSDOH Ed Wronski to Dr. J. Takats regarding training and distribution of the Atropine autojectors
- 3/4/08** South Lockport Fire Dept. to Dr. J. Takats regarding clarification of whether Dr. Michal Torres was still their Medical Director. Subsequent information determined Dr. Torres was still their Medical Director.
- 3/11/08** E-mail correspondence from Cathi Peters, STEMS regarding correction to January WREMAC minutes. Donna Kahm is **not** looking into a replacement for the Chair of the Nurse Advisory Committee.
- 3/18/08** Letter from Cliff Smith to Dr. Takats regarding Rural Metro's move to electronic PCRs. Expectations are to have the entire operation on line with the electronic PCRs by July, 2008.

*Addendums to the correspondence, as seen on the agenda:*

- 3/5/08** Letter from G. Leinhart, physician from downstate regarding in pursuit of a statewide minimum protocol. There will be more conversation on this matter later in the meeting.
- 3/6/08** Copy of a letter from Casimier Czamara to Mayor Brown, resigning as the Chairman of the Buffalo EMS Board.
- 3/10/08** Announcement of the WEREMSC Program Agency
- 3/10/08** Press Release from Channel 4 pertaining to the overcrowding of EDs, delays and ambulance responses. Dr. Takats will have a response in return to them.

**SEMAC / SEMSCO REPORT:**

2 reports – Dr. Myers reported on the March minutes, Dr. Takats on the January.  
**Attached**

**WREMAC Chair Report: J. Takats**

A Quality Improvement book was issued by the state and has been out for a few months. In review of the contents, Dr. Takats has found information that was unfamiliar to him. Highly recommends referring to it. Please make sure that the agencies you provide medical direction to have a copy, and are familiar with it as well. It is imperative to NOT be an absentee medical director – remain active with your agencies. Please contact the DOH if you have not yet received this book.

**Nurse Advisory Committee – Chair vacant**

No report. Still in need of a chair for this committee.

**Prehospital Advisory Committee – G. Gill**

N/R

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Disaster Committee – J. Teuscher**

N/R

Dr. Teuscher also noted that another subcommittee that she is on; the SCT committee may need to be revisited, based on some information and documents that have recently been distributed by Deb Funk.

May consider adding into the next protocol, 12 Lead indications for chest pain for the instances that are not classic presentations. Possibly wrap this into the Protocol Committee. Develop guidelines for providers.

**ALS Protocol Committee – S. Lakomy (J. Myers, in S. Lakomy absence)**

- E. Mager commented that the WREMAC policies are very much outdated, and could use a revamping. It was discussed that this is a project that the Protocol Committee should take on.
- Dr. Myers reported that the current protocols are outdated, and that they should be updated more frequently. It was decided that e-mail is a very good way to communicate with other subcommittee members, with 1 or 2 actual face-to-face meetings as necessary.

Several protocols were distributed and reviewed: (attached)

1. **CPAP** – discussed different ranges for a CPAP procedure, suggestion to start at 5 and then notch up to 10, increasing every 5 minutes as needed. Also, add that the hospital should be notified ASAP that a patient is being brought in on CPAP. Discussion as to what levels of care are permitted to use this device.
2. **Absorbent Hemostatic Agent** – reviewed. BLS will be permitted to do this. Dr. Borton noted that if there was a neck or abdomen wound, this might cause some problems. Wording was then changed to “extremity above wound”.
3. **Capnography** -
4. **Resuscitation Post Cardiac Care** – Dr. Dietrich Jehle presented this protocol, handouts were distributed. Dr. Myers reviewed the handouts. Dr. Borton suggested keeping the “neuro exam” very simple, keeping only to “able to follow commands”. Take out box stating to perform neuro exam.

E. Mager suggested notifying providers / doctors that all future protocol correspondence will be done through the WREMAC’s web site. It can be sent

certified to the WREMAC. E-mail will be acceptable in place of regular mail. This can be done more efficiently this way.

Motion to approve the protocols with the modifications as discussed.

**Motion # 08-05**

**QI / QA – R. Martin/M. Kenyon/C. Cooley**

N/R

**Equipment Committee – C. Cooley**

- With one minor change to be made, there is a final copy of the guidelines for Cardiac Monitor. Copies were distributed to the voting members.
- S. Wander discussed ALS equipment that is kept on ambulance, quantity, etc. Part 800 of PHL discusses the quantity of BLS equipment that is needed. ALS is based on the region's WREMAC equipment list, which hasn't been updated since 1999 and should be updated. The Equipment Committee has made some recommendations, which were distributed to the voting members. This list includes quantities.
- The Medication list that is in the back of the protocol book does not specify minimum dose needed to have on ambulance. The list distributed also includes the minimum dose needed for **required** medications. The optional medication list was not included, as that is to be determined by the agency's medical director. Question was previously raised as to whether required / optional TRULY mean just that. If so, then notices need to go out, because several agencies are not equipped with the required medications.

**Waveform Capnography:**

- With the advent of Waveform Capnography rolling out in the first of the year (1/1/2009) intubations or rescue devices will not be permitted to do if Waveform Capnography is not accessible. Dr. Takats stated that the requirements for Waveform Capnography need to be reviewed, that it does not need to be used on Cardiac Arrests.
- S. Wander stated that at the last WREMAC meeting, the body voted to perform Waveform Capnography on any / all intubated patients. MUCH discussion evolved regarding this issue. This is NOT a cost issue; it is a patient safety issue. The protocol should have been extended to back up devices as well. Motion to amend policy to require back up rescue devices to include Waveform Capnography. **Motion#08-06**
- Providers will need to be educated on this device. Training was discussed. Training and Resources should be shared between program agencies. The WREMAC should stick with the drop-dead date of 1/09, with the WREMAC having the ability to grant a 1-year hardship waiver for agencies NOT able to meet the deadline.
- The Equipment committee will look into manufacturers giving large "discounts" or is there a state contract price available. Discussion ensued regarding this as well. The Committee will look into what is available and have this for the next meeting.

Votes were taken on the following topics:

1. Cardiac Monitor - **#08-07**
2. Equipment List - **#08-08**
3. Continuous Waveform Capnography - **#08-09**

4. Continuous Waveform Capnography “drop-dead” date (1/1/09) set by the state will be reinforced by the WREMAC. #08-10

**Research and Education – J. Myers**

Base Station Course has been set up.

**Ad Hoc SSI – J. Teuscher**

Still waiting for the education piece to roll out.

**Ad Hoc 12 Lead EKG:**

**Ad Hoc PCI – J. Borton**

Letters were distributed. The PCI committee needs to review and approve this letter so that they can be sent out to the hospitals. Do not need the full WREMAC approval, the committee has already been charged with handling this themselves.

**Unfinished Business**

Aspirin Protocol for EMD was distributed at the last meeting, promoting administration of aspirin in certain events. The protocol gives the dispatcher instructions for the patient over the phone. The Equipment Committee did not get to discuss this at their meeting. Would like the committee to vote, if possible. **Motion #08-11**

- PAD agencies are self-explanatory. There is no need to approve these agencies, only review:
  - Orleans County Nutrition Program      Medical Director      J.R.Takats
  - Dr. Samuel Carocci                              Medical Director      J.R.Takats
  - Damon & Morey LLP                              Medical Director      J.R.Takats
  - Sisters of St. Joseph                              Medical Director      J.R.Takats
  - Briody Healthcare Facility                      Medical Director      Dr. Charles Yates
  - Genesee Co. Sheriffs Office                  Medical Director      United Memorial Med.  
Center    Dr. Danielle Notebaert
  - Town of Kendall Town Hall                      Medical Director      Dr. Tim Hagg
  - Zion Lutheran Church                              Medical Director      Dr. Jason Borton  
(Clarence Center)

Requesting en masse approval of the following upgrades and medical director changes:

**Level of Care**

- Upgrade – Frewsburg VFC re-authorize this Agency for the Paramedic level
- City of Olean - upgrade to AEMT-P
- Blossom Volunteer Fire Company – upgrade from Basic to AEMT-P

**Change in Medical Directors:**

- Dr. Buckley to Dr. Henri Lamothe:
 

City of Olean FD	Cattaraugus
Hinsdale	Trans Am (Dr. Patel also listed)
Little Valley	City of Salamanca

Portville  
Limestone  
Cuba  
West Clarksville

Ellicottville / Great Valley  
Allegany  
Westons Mills  
Seneca Nation

- City of Batavia from Dr. Scott Belote (UMMC) to Dr. Danielle Notebart (UMMC)
- Leroy Ambulance from Dr. Davis (Strong Memorial) to Dr. Danielle Notebart (UMMC)

**New Business:**

- Reviewed W. Reisner's letter, requesting the WREMAC to support the opposition of state minimum protocols as proposed by the State. Gold standard would become the State protocols. In discussion, Dr. Cooley stated that he does not want to rule out the complete opposition of minimum statewide protocols. Much discussion evolved regarding this issue as well.
- S. Wander remarked that there is a complete lack of understanding of the level 3 programs. Feels strongly that there is a need for statewide CC level protocols. Dr. Billittier stated that he is in support of statewide protocols. This issue was tabled for the May 21, 2008 meeting.

Issues from the floor:

**Motion to adjourn: #08-13**  
**Approved.**

*The next meeting of the WREMAC will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 3:00 at  
Chef's.  
Please make every effort to attend.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph R. Takats III, D.O., Chairman