

Minutes of the Alabama Trauma System (ATS)

QA/QI Workgroup Meeting

November 27, 2012, 10 a.m., Room 1182

Call in Information 1-800-491-4634

In attendance: William Crawford, M.D., Choona Lang, Verla Thomas, MisChele White, Leslie Morgan, Glenn Davis, Joe Acker, Mark Jackson

By Phone: Geni Smith, Alex Franklin, Allan Pace, Andrew Lee, Denise Louthain

Absent: Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Richard Gonzalez, M.D., Jeremy White, Michael Minor, Spencer Howard

Dr. Crawford opened the meeting with a welcome.

Alabama Trauma System (ATS) Update

Dr. Crawford informed the workgroup that the ATS inspection of Decatur Morgan has been scheduled for December 2012, and the inspection of Children's Hospital will be scheduled in the first quarter of 2013.

Ms. Lang informed the workgroup that she consulted with Brian Hale, in the Alabama Department of Public Health Legal Department, on the workgroups request to use "routing" rather than "coordinating" in reference to the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) process for patient destination. "Coordinating" is the language currently in use in the ATS Plan. Mr. Hale provided the revised language in draft form. The drafted language will be presented to the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) Review Workgroup, for review, before being presented to the STHSAC for consideration and approval.

After discussion and with a few changes the workgroup agreed to use the new Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) form that has been developed. The effective date for the new QA/QI form is November 27, 2012. The ATCC will begin using it immediately.

Trauma patients discharged from the emergency department without being entered into the ATS are now being entered by the ATCC when alerted by trauma centers. Mr. Acker plans to monitor this ATS patient data for the time being and will report back to the workgroup at the next meeting. At that time, the process for entering these patients will be reassessed.

ATS QA/QI Issues

Mr. Jackson informed the group that the most pressing and current QA/QI problem is air medical compliance with ATS rules. For the last two months, there have been multiple instances of non-compliance in the form of late calling and fifteen instances of no calls being placed to the ATCC during patient routing procedures. This problem is being addressed with the air medical provider in question and could result in the loss of licensure.

Alabama Trauma Registry (ATR) Update

Ms. Thomas reported that the trauma registry no longer has an epidemiologist on staff due to budget cuts and has asked for patience when requesting data. Since travel will be kept to a minimum, quarterly webcasts are being planned for the ATR to assist in keeping hospitals updated to maintain ATR compliance and education. Tests on ATR software are currently being conducted and will be completed soon. Ms. Thomas is compiling a report assessing hospital compliance with entering ATCC numbers in the trauma registry database. She has recently completed a list of possible upgrades to present to the software vendor.

ePCR Compliance Update

Ms. White informed the workgroup that ePCR compliance is up slightly from last year but much more progress needs to be made to generate quality ATS patient data. She continues to follow up with services when bad data is received. Several ideas to increase compliance were discussed by the workgroup such as tying data compliance to service provider licensure and hospital trauma activation fees.

Follow up issue with Danne

Regional Discussion

Region One

Mr. Franklin reported that his region is removing the LifeTrac system from two locations out of four at Huntsville Hospital for Southeast Regional Pilot Acute Stroke System (SRPASS) use.

Region Two

Mr. Pace reported that he will be meeting with representatives from the northwest corner of Georgia to complete their regional trauma plan for presentation to the regional council for approval in January.

Region Three

Mr. Acker reported that they have had several ATS QA/QI issues but have already resolved a majority of them.

Region Four

Mr. Davis reported that the changes they have made to their process for contacting the ATCC seems to be successful. He also requested status on the re-inspection of Vaughn Regional Medical Center (RMC). Dr. Crawford informed the group that the Office of Emergency Medical Services is waiting until the hospital has hired a trauma manager to schedule a re-inspection. Vaughn RMC will be removed from the ATS until that time.

Region Five

Ms. Louthain informed the workgroup that sixteen SRPASS applications have been received from Region Five hospitals so far. There is still a budget shortfall of \$12,000.00 for the computer equipment that may push the SRPASS activation date to March, 2013. On-site inspections will be scheduled once the physicians' schedules on the on-site team are received.

Region Six

No report at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.