

# Minutes of the Alabama Trauma System (ATS)

Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Workgroup Meeting

October 28, 2014, 10 a.m., Room 1182

Call in Information 1-800-491-4585

**In attendance:** William Crawford, M.D., Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Choona Lang, Dennis Blair, David Garmon, Dion Schultz, Denise Louthain, Leslie Morgan, Mark Jackson, MisChele White, Verla Thomas

**By Phone:** Allan Pace, Michael Minor, Holly Waller

**Absent:** Andrew Lee, Geni Smith, Glenn Davis, Jeremy White, Joe Acker, Spencer Howard

Dr. Crawford welcomed participants.

## **ATS Update**

Dr. Crawford asked the Workgroup if they have noted QA issues that are being repeated, or any particular trend in QA issues. He encouraged the regional directors to do what they could to minimize any repeated QA issues. Dr. Crawford reminded the Workgroup that regions could not take punitive action, but asked them to focus on education specifically focused toward any repeated QA issue. Mr. Schultz reported that Region One sends a form to the emergency medical services personnel (EMSP) involved verifying that the EMSP has been educated, which includes the specific infraction and type of education given. The form must be signed by the trainer. He reported that this process has lowered the number of QA issues in Region One. Mr. Garmon added that he examines the patient care reports (PCR) and asks all EMSP involved to submit a description of the incident, then the report is followed-up by education related to the QA issue. Mr. Garmon also reported that the process followed in Region Six has lowered the number of QA issues. Each regional director reported handling QA issues in the same manner, however, Mr. Pace also requires the medical director in his region to sign the QA form. Mr. Schultz agreed to make his form available to anyone who would like to use it. Dr. Crawford reported to the Workgroup that Mr. Blair has arranged to add four hours of ATS education to annual licensure recertification requirements, which may help to alleviate some QA issues.

Dr. Crawford requested that the Workgroup review the OEMS QA form to determine if it needs to specifically define "late entry." Mr. Minor explained that EMSP are often already in route to a hospital before entering the patient, which triggers a "late entry" QA issue. Mr. Garmon added that EMSP often contact the hospital, rather than calling the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC), which also triggers a "late entry" QA issue. Because it has been several years since the ATS was activated, Dr. Crawford suggested re-focusing on basic ATS education.

Ms. Lang reported that the quarterly trauma managers' meetings that are held by the OEMS fulfill the contractual requirement for trauma managers meetings that are to be held by the

regional directors. However, the regional directors must assist in drafting agendas and must attend the OEMS trauma managers meetings' in person to consider the requirement filled. Ms. Lang reported that the OEMS trauma managers meetings are well attended, provide valuable feedback on ATS processes, and encourages hospital data compliance. The regional directors' suggestion to include hospital registrars in these meetings was agreed upon by the Workgroup.

Dr. Crawford asked the Workgroup to submit prospective goals for the QA/QI Workgroup for 2015. These suggestions will be discussed in the next Workgroup meeting. Ms. Lang updated the Workgroup on the status of approvals by the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) of the Regional Trauma Plans. Region Three is trying to work with Dr. Loring Rue's schedule and hopes to have the Regional Trauma Plan approved by the RAC soon. Once the result of that vote is received, an electronic vote will be sent to the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) to approve the plans.

### **ATS Report**

Ms. White presented a review of ATS/Stroke Data Report, as distributed. She requested that the Workgroup submit to her any feedback on the report.

### **Stroke System Update**

Dr. Nafziger displayed the PowerPoint Presentation that OEMS gave at the National Association of State EMS Officials Annual Meeting, as distributed. Dr. Nafziger also relayed that she requested suggestions from the Stroke Executive Committee on activating the remaining regions in Alabama for stroke and she will report the findings in the next Workgroup meeting.

### **Regional Discussion**

#### ***Region One***

Mr. Schultz informed the Workgroup that Level III re-inspections are almost complete and a report will be submitted to the STHSAC. He indicated that there may be several provisional designations due to a lack of formalized documentation. Mr. Schultz stated that the Medical Direction and Accountability Committee (MDAC) meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2014, and the RAC meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2014.

#### ***Region Two***

Mr. Pace reported that the RAC meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2014. He reported that ATS education is on-going, and an infectious disease program is being developed. Mr. Pace also reported that a prehospital provider meeting is being planned and timely PCR submission will be emphasized.

#### ***Region Three***

Mr. Minor stated the adjustments to hospital outcome reports have been completed and seem to be working well.

#### ***Region Four***

Mr. Davis reported that the regional trauma plan has been approved by the RAC. He informed the Workgroup that, after deliberation, the region decided to change to a 30-minute secondary triage time. This will prevent an inordinate amount of trauma alerts going to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Druid City Hospital has hired a trauma surgeon and will hire another in the near future. There are also plans to change to a Level II ATS designation sometime in the future. He reported that Northwest Medical Center is scheduled for ATS inspection for a Level III designation on November 25, 2014, though they may only participate part-time. Vaughn Regional Medical Center's ATS designation is pending to allow personnel changes to be made.

#### ***Region Five***

Ms. Louthain informed the Workgroup that she is still receiving ATS QA issues related to trauma patients not being entered into the system or entered late, but stroke QA issues have decreased. She also informed the Workgroup that she is visiting community hospitals and is planning a prehospital provider meeting.

#### ***Region Six***

Mr. Garmon reported that the RAC and MDAC meetings will be held on November 21, 2014. He reported that Sidney Brevard, M.D., has been appointed by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to be a member of the STHSAC and will also serve as the Region Six medical director. He reported that he is working to fill the remaining opening on the RAC as new personnel are hired. Mr. Garmon reported a QA issue involving a transfer by military helicopter in which a nurse assisted with the transfer. Dr. Crawford explained that EMSP usually assists with transfers involving military helicopters, and the ATCC should direct these types of transfers in the future.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Suite 1100.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:26 a.m.