

Minutes of the Alabama Trauma System (ATS)

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

November 26, 2013, 10 a.m., Room 1182

Call in Information 1-800-491-4585

In attendance: William Crawford, M.D., Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Leslie Morgan, Glenn Davis, Mark Jackson, Joe Acker, Andrew Lee, MisChele White

By Phone: Geni Smith, Michael Minor, Dion Schultz, David Garmon, Allan Pace

Absent: Choona Lang, Richard Gonzalez, M.D., Jeremy White, Dennis Blair, Verla Thomas, Spencer Howard, Denise Louthain

Dr. Crawford welcomed participants.

ATS Update

Dr. Crawford informed the workgroup that Flowers Hospital and Baptist Medical Center South in Region Five, have submitted paperwork to join the ATS. Dr. Crawford is actively looking for a trauma surgeon to join the ATS On-site Inspection Team before inspection dates are confirmed.

ATS Level III Re-designation Process

Dr. Crawford reminded the Regional Directors to conduct the Level III Inspections necessary to complete the re-designation of the Level III trauma centers in their respective regions. The Level III Inspection Schedule will be updated based on the new inspection dates for Regions One, Two, and Three.

QA/QI Update

Mr. Jackson informed the workgroup that he has seen an increase in QA issues resulting from ATS patients being routed to St. Francis Hospital in Georgia. St. Francis appears to be the closest hospital in most of the cases he investigated. Dr. Nafziger advised the workgroup that talks are already in progress with St. Francis and Columbus Regional Medical Center to join the ATS. The workgroup agreed to continue to QA these transfers until those hospitals are officially in the ATS to be sure that they are appropriate.

Mr. Jackson has also observed that some Cullman County patients are being routed to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and the regional plan indicates that these patients should be routed to Region One. Dr. Crawford contacted Dr. Scott Warner at Cullman County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), who agreed that those patients are closer to UAB than to Huntsville Hospital, making routing to UAB completely appropriate.

Dr. Crawford has found that it is the opinion of many of the trauma doctors in the ATS that regional boundaries should not come before a patient's proximity to a trauma center.

Dr. Crawford informed the group that the Office of EMS (OEMS) is making every effort to educate out-of-state hospitals of the necessity of including the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) number on all patient care reports (PCRs). Mr. Blair is calling these out-of-state hospitals to be sure that they have the information they need to contact the ATCC when processing an ATS patient.

The possibility of adding actionable QA/QI issues to the Website was tabled until the next meeting.

Alabama Trauma Registry Update

Ms. White informed the workgroup that OEMS is now receiving trauma registry data from UAB and it is being added to Collector. Dr. Loring Rue is in the process of selecting an associate to assist the OEMS with the data registry. Dr. Crawford and Mr. Blair will follow up with Dr. Rue on this matter.

Ms. White informed the workgroup that ATCC feedback reports are still being monitored for compliance purposes.

Regional Trauma Plan Update

The workgroup discussed and finalized the last details of the regional trauma plan updates. Ms. Morgan will apply the changes, as requested, and then forward each plan to the Regional Directors for presentation to their Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). Once they are approved and adopted by the RACs, the plans will be submitted to the STHSAC for consideration.

Regional Discussion

Region One

Mr. Schultz informed the workgroup that their RAC Meeting will take place on December 18, 2013. Mr. Schultz is working to increase participation in regional meetings and he is receiving better feedback from hospitals and conducting training classes as needed. A 60-minute routing map is currently being developed and will soon be implemented.

Region Two

Mr. Pace reported that their RAC Meeting will take place on December 12, 2013. A Level III Re-inspection Team has already been formed and is in place. Mr. Pace informed the workgroup that Gadsden Regional Medical Center is considering changing its ATS designation from Level III to a Level II. His region is also in the process of reviewing and formalizing the QA process and improving relationships with providers. Mr. Pace's office is also in the process of creating a landing zone map for use by EMS providers.

Region Three

No report at this time.

Region Four

Mr. Davis reported that his RAC has approved changing secondary triage times to 60 minutes. His region is currently working with the ATCC to develop a ground/air transport routing map. Druid Community Hospital (DCH) is considering applying for a change of their ATS designation from Level III to Level II, but this change will not take place until mid-2014.

Region Five

No report at this time. The workgroup would like to discuss moving Dallas and Wilcox counties back to Region Five in the future.

Region Six

Mr. Garmon reported that USA Medical Center is on red much of the time and this may become an issue in the future. There was nothing else to report at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 p.m.