

Minutes of the Alabama Trauma System (ATS)

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

March 31, 2014, 10 a.m., Room 1182

Call in Information 1-800-491-4585

In attendance: William Crawford, M.D., Dion Schultz, Mark Jackson, Leslie Morgan, Verla Thomas, Joe Acker, Gary Mackey

By Phone: David Garmon, Andrew Lee, Allan Pace, Glenn Davis, Denise Louthain, Michael Minor, Geni Smith

Absent: Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Choon Lang, MisChele White, Richard Gonzalez, M.D., Jeremy White, Dennis Blair, Spencer Howard

Dr. Crawford welcomed participants.

ATS Update

Dr. Crawford informed the Workgroup that the ATS on-site inspection of Baptist Medical Center South was completed and that facility will qualify for a Level II designation. The inspections for Flowers Hospital and Southeast Alabama Medical Center (SAMC) have also been completed. The Inspection Team has determined that Flowers Hospital needs to resolve several issues; therefore, they will qualify as a Level III at this time. SAMC will qualify as a Level II.

The Trauma Rule change which updates ATS Entry Criteria is on-going. The Pediatric Trauma Rule change process is nearly complete. The provisional designation for Children's Hospital ends on April 30, 2014, and the rule change will be effective on April 24, 2014. At that time, the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) will be polled by electronic vote to award a regular Level I ATS Designation to Children's Hospital.

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 Inspections for Regions One, Two, Three, and Four need to be completed this year.

The Workgroup discussed several proposed changes to the Regional Trauma Plans. These changes will need to be reviewed by Alabama Department of Public Health Legal Counsel before implementation.

QA/QI Update

Mr. Jackson informed the Workgroup of a QA issue involving a patient that fell from a standing position in Region Two. Emergency medical services personnel (EMSP) called the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) and were directed to take the patient to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). The EMSP questioned that direction, stating that Huntsville

Hospital was closer, and delivered the patient to Huntsville Hospital. Mr. Jackson indicated that this was not technically a QA issue because Huntsville Hospital was closer than UAB to the incident. Mr. Acker added that the ATCC was directed by Dr. Donald Williamson, State Health Office, to send as few traumatic brain injury patients to Huntsville Hospital as possible, due to complaints from the neurosurgeons there.

Dr. Crawford reminded the Workgroup that the STHSAC agreed, at their last meeting, that regional and political boundaries were to be ignored, and traumatically injured patients were to be directed to the closest hospital that can effectively care for them. Mr. Acker indicated that he would need specific direction to reverse the ATCC protocol regarding Huntsville Hospital.

Alabama Trauma Registry Update

Ms. Thomas reported that all ATS data was now stored in one place and can be pulled as needed. She is currently working on mapping the ATCC numbers to the registry so that ATS patients will then be able to be identified. Ms. Thomas is planning to begin the mapping on Druid Community Hospital (DCH), Huntsville Hospital, and the University of South Alabama.

Regional Discussion

Region One

Mr. Schultz informed the workgroup that Parkway Medical Center opted out of the ATS and their resources have been transferred to Decatur General. He also reported that his office has been in discussion with Helen Keller Hospital about possibly entering the ATS.

Region Two

Mr. Pace reported that his region is in the process of reviewing and formalizing the QA and chart review processes, and efficiently adding stroke and stemi patients. Mr. Pace's office is also holding an EMS Leadership Academy meeting on May 30, 2014, that will feature the Walt Disney company and focus on customer service. Mr. Pace asked the Workgroup to tell others about this unique opportunity and encourage anyone interested to participate.

Region Three

Mr. Acker informed the Workgroup that the ATCC has been receiving an increasing number of calls from the field regarding stroke, and these calls are entered into the system. Mr. Minor reported that there have been several power failures in hospital computers. He asked that the Regional Directors pay particular attention to the systems that are installed in each ATS hospital and be sure they are being kept free of dust, which is likely the cause of these failures. Mr. Minor also informed the Workgroup that in the case of a complete loss, OEMS has estimates of the cost to replace the computer systems.

Region Four

Mr. Davis reported that his Regional Advisory Council (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. DCH is considering applying for a change of their ATS

designation from Level III to Level II, but the application to change level will not be submitted until mid-2014.

Region Five

Ms. Louthain informed the Workgroup that the process to move Dallas and Wilcox Counties from Region Four to Region Five is underway. Crenshaw Community Hospital has applied for stroke designation and an inspection is scheduled for April 22, 2014. Ms. Louthain reported that the stroke system is operating well and tPA administration levels are very good. A grant to purchase equipment for L.V. Stabler has gone through.

Region Six

Mr. Garmon reported that the RAC will be meeting soon. He also reported that his region is showing interest in the stroke system.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2014, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Suite 1100.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:17 a.m.