

Minutes of the Alabama Trauma System (ATS)

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

May 27, 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, Dion Schultz, Mark Jackson, Leslie Morgan, Verla Thomas, MisChele White

By Phone: David Garmon, Allan Pace, Glenn Davis, Denise Louthain, Michael Minor, Geni Smith, Joe Acker, Holly Waller

Absent: Andrew Lee, Dennis Blair, Richard Gonzalez, M.D., Jeremy White, Spencer Howard

Dr. Crawford welcomed participants.

ATS Update

Dr. Crawford informed the Workgroup that the ATS on-site re-inspection of Flowers Hospital will occur on June 6, 2014, and the inspection of Jackson Hospital will occur on June 3, 2014. Inspections of Baptist South and Southeast Alabama Medical Center have also been completed.

The Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) awarded a regular Level I ATS Designation to Children's Hospital. This decision will be official at the June 16, 2014, STHSAC Meeting.

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. Mr. Schultz reported that his office is planning to physically visit each Level III trauma center in Region One. Mr. Acker reminded the Workgroup that the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) would assist by retrieving data from the system, as needed.

The Workgroup discussed several proposed changes to the Regional Trauma Plans. These changes were reviewed by Alabama Department of Public Health Legal Counsel before implementation. Updated versions of the Regional Trauma Plans, with highlighted changes, will be sent to the Regional Directors for review by their respective Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). These changes were also extended to the ATS Manual. An updated copy will be forwarded to the Regional Directors.

Dr. Crawford explained to the Workgroup that the form used for QA/QI Issues has been revised to make the process more concise. He has requested that no personal comments be added to the form during the investigative process. The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has found that these comments cause unnecessary concern on the part of EMS providers. An area to list exactly what rule was allegedly violated has also been added to the form.

Ms. Lang explained to the Workgroup that the OEMS has held quarterly meetings with various Trauma Managers from each region to open communication and discuss data compliance, ATS processes, and any unresolved issues. She asked the Regional Directors to attend the next meeting on June 17, 2014, and to nominate a Trauma Manager from their region who may want to attend.

The Workgroup also discussed ATS training to be sure that new hires and transfers are properly trained on ATS processes, and re-training, as-needed, to address non-compliance issues. Several regions reported going directly to services to conduct training or teaching in-office classes. Several regions reported that training classes were not well attended even when effectively advertised, so most have added a training link to their websites for access, as needed.

QA/QI Update

Mr. Jackson did not have a report to submit at this time.

Alabama Trauma Registry (ATR) Update

Ms. Thomas reported that she has received data from Erlanger Health System to move over to the production site. She also reported that quarterly compliance reports are being produced and sent to each trauma center and some have not submitted data for six months or more. Mr. Schultz indicated that some trauma center staff in Region One are completely unaware of the ATR. He requested a list of registrars to contact.

Regional Discussion

Region One

Mr. Schultz informed the workgroup that the Region One RAC will begin Level III re-inspections starting with Helen Keller Hospital on May 28, 2014. The next RAC meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2014.

Region Two

Mr. Pace reported that the next Region Two RAC meeting has been scheduled for June 5, 2014. The recent Leadership Academy was well attended and received; and, the attendees were very impressed with the venue. Level III re-inspections are being planned and charts are being gathered. Mr. Pace also reported that his region is having success in getting service Medical Directors more involved in the QI process by having them personally sign the QI form. He has received positive feedback from this change.

Region Three

Mr. Acker stated that he thinks the changes that Region Two made to the QI form, and the additional sign-offs that it will require, will be helpful. He requested a listing of the providers and their corresponding Medical Directors in Region Three so that he can begin contacting them to improve communication. Additional funding has been secured for a second

communicator at the ATCC to help with the increased calls now that the Southeast Region is close to ATS activation. Mr. Acker informed the Workgroup that the ATCC is working on stroke numbers and will provide those when they are available. Mr. Acker requested that the various regional agencies let providers know that Region Three has a large number of spine boards that need to be picked up.

Region Four

Mr. Davis reported that he recently visited Northwest Regional Medical Center for a preliminary site inspection, and it appears that the facility should be prepared to arrange for an inspection date in the next week. Mr. Davis is also waiting to hear from Vaughn Regional Medical Center to arrange their inspection date.

Region Five

Ms. Louthain informed the Workgroup that the ATS activation of Region Five is close. Crenshaw Community Hospital's stroke system designation is in the process of being approved by the RAC, and computers are being installed. So far, there has been 17 percent tPA administration in the participating stroke centers in Region Five. Ms. Louthain reported that prehospital providers are already calling in ATS patients as well.

Region Six

Mr. Garmon reported that after ATS training, University of South Alabama (USA) Medical Center is now entering patients into the system. Mr. Garmon plans to meet with USA and the providers in the region to remind them that USA needs to contact the ATCC, rather than in-region services, when they are on diversion. He reported that the Region Six RAC meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 26, 2014.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2014, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Suite 1100.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:16 a.m.