

Minutes of the Alabama Trauma System (ATS)

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

October 16, 2013, 10 a.m., Room 1182

Call in Information 1-800-491-4585

In attendance: William Crawford, M.D., Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Choona Lang, Verla Thomas, Leslie Morgan, Glenn Davis, Mark Jackson, Joe Acker, Dion Schultz, Spencer Howard, Andrew Lee, David Garmon, Denise Louthain

By Phone: Geni Smith, Michael Minor

Absent: Richard Gonzalez, M.D., Jeremy White, Mischele White, Dennis Blair, Allan Pace

Dr. Crawford welcomed participants.

Out-of-State Patients/ATS Education

Dr. Crawford informed the workgroup that efforts have been underway to improve the entry of patients that are routed to out-of- state hospitals. Education for partner states is being considered, especially for air medical and emergency medical services (EMS) providers in border counties. Mr. Blair will begin contacting his counterparts in neighboring states to request that contact information for the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) is disseminated to the affected counties.

Trauma Manager Contact List

Ms. Lang reminded the EMS Regional Directors to be sure to update their trauma manager contact lists, as meetings are now being planned for each region.

QA/QI Update

Mr. Jackson described several QA/QI issues to the workgroup that involved air medical services delivering ATS patients to out-of-state or out-of-region hospitals that are not designated trauma centers. After careful review, it was determined that most of these decisions were appropriate for the care of the patient due to the proximity of the patient to the facility. The few QA/QI issues where transport was not appropriate will be followed up with further education. After discussion by the workgroup, it was decided that the practice of sending of out-of-state ATS patient transfer QA/QI issues (that were deemed appropriate) to the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) for further review will be discontinued because this practice is necessary for the proper care of the patient. However, this data will continue to be collected and monitored. The QA/QI process will continue for transporting patients to non-designated trauma centers in Region Five until the region is activated in the ATS. The possibility of adding actionable QA/QI issues to the website was tabled until the next meeting.

Hospital Entry Criteria Posters

Mr. Garmon informed the workgroup of the positive feedback he has received on the hospital entry criteria posters that he developed and installed in the trauma centers in Region Six. Trauma centers were appreciative of the visual cue and entry of trauma system patients seems to be improving with the assistance of these posters. Mr. Garmon agreed to send an electronic version of the poster to the workgroup for review.

Alabama Trauma Registry Update

Ms. Thomas reminded the workgroup that the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) has requested improved trauma system reporting. The effort to link data systems is on-going and fields are being developed for entry of ATCC numbers. Each hospital has its own system of data entry, but education is being provided to improve this process.

Ms. Thomas advised the workgroup that ATCC number compliance is still an issue, since only one third of trauma system patients are being entered correctly. Efforts to encourage ATCC compliance are on-going. Ms. White will continue to provide each region with compliance reports so that the regional offices can assist, as needed, with data entry and ATCC number compliance issues.

Regional Trauma Plan Update

The workgroup discussed and completed the last details of the regional trauma plan update. 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. Howard reported that he is having difficulty with the participation of hospitals and doctors in regional meetings and educational offerings. He is observing a lack of involvement and an increase in the use of proxies for advisory council meetings. He is currently examining ways to increase participation.

Region Two

No report at this time.

Region Three

See attached report.

Region Four

Mr. Davis reported that out-of-state QA/QI issues have increased but most have been deemed to be in the best interest of the patient. These issues will no longer be forwarded to the OEMS for review.

Region Five

Ms. Louthain reported that 325 patients have been entered into the stroke system to date, averaging six patients per day. The ATCC has been able to handle the increased volume. Ms. Louthain is currently developing a contact list and method for delivering patient feedback reports to EMS providers.

Region Six

No report at this time.

Protocols

Dr. Nafziger informed the workgroup that the updated protocols were approved by the State Committee of Public Health and will be effective February 1, 2014, to allow the Regional Directors ample time to conduct protocol education prior to implementation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:16 p.m.