

Minutes of the Alabama Trauma System

QA/QI Workgroup Meeting

May 24, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Office of EMS & Trauma Conference Room

Call in Information 1-800-491-4634

In attendance: Mark Jackson, Choona Lang, Robin Moore, Tammie Yeldell, Joe Acker

By Phone: Allan Pace, Sherry Melton, M.D., Glenn Davis, Andrew Lee,
Alex Franklin, Michael Minor, David Garmon, Alisha Fabela

Absent: William Crawford, M.D., Beth Anderson, Denise Louthain

Choona Lang opened the meeting with a welcome.

Trauma System Update

- Choona Lang is currently waiting to receive an update report regarding the trauma system focus groups results. Mrs. Lang hopes to have an update before the next scheduled meeting in June.
- The Stroke System Planning Committee has developed a stroke system readiness survey for distribution to all hospitals in the state. The survey is on hold to allow the hospitals an opportunity to complete the post tornado disasters follow up. In addition, several of the Stroke Planning Committee Members were tasked to identify a three-tier stroke system and draft a 3 tier plan for Alabama to review at the next stroke planning committee meeting.
- The Trauma Center Designation Criteria Workgroup has completed the recommended changes to the Trauma Center Designation. The changes will be submitted to the Statewide Trauma Advisory Council (STAC) members for review on June 28, 2011.
- The Alabama Trauma Center Visitation forms have been submitted to the regional staff. They should be used to document all trauma center visits.
- Mrs. Lang is currently waiting to receive feedback from the STAC trauma surgeon to move forward with developing specific state and regional QA/QI reports.
- All regional EMS and Trauma agencies that have not submitted their QA/QI Data Protection letter needs to send a scanned copy and then submit the original in the mail to the Office of EMS & Trauma. This project needs to be completed before Michael Minor, Birmingham Regional EMS System, can schedule hardware installation dates for each region.

QA/QI Issues

There have been no QA/QI IB issues since the last meeting.

Disaster Report

Region 1

- Alex would like to know some specific question for the North Region to prepare the North region disaster debriefing.
- None of the CT Scanners in the small hospitals, in the north region, were using generators. This resulted in a larger number of patient transferred to Huntsville Hospital just for evaluation. Huntsville Hospital had to stop accepting patient just for evaluation.
- The north region was unable to identify damage done to an ambulance.
- The redistribution of backboard is an ongoing issue.
- There were mass communication problems during the disaster.
- An inquiry was made as to who is managing Metropolitan Response Funding (MMR). This may possibly be an area to receive funds for communication.
- It was reported that SouthernLinc, Verizon Wireless nor AT&T received signals during the disaster in the north region.
- The north EMS and Trauma regional staff plans to establish a list of immediate and back-up communication options which will be used by the prehospital staff providers.
- The trauma center resources updates are not being maintained on a regular basis in the north region. This issue will be addressed.
- Access to Alabama Incident Management System (AIMS) was limited due to password access.

Region 2

Michael Minor was currently onsite to install the LifeTrac System.

Region 3

The LifeTrac software and hardware currently scheduled for installation will not have trauma registry reports or transfer reports. All other reports demonstrated during the report demonstration meeting will be available for use the state and Regional EMS staff.

Region 4

EMS Debriefing

Emergency Medical Services reported most of the patients they treated were the walking and wounded which were treated onsite. The largest concern related to communication issues. Most of the prehospital staff used cell phones, however, during the tornadoes the cell towers were down. Southern Linc was the only means of communication during this time.

Hospital Debriefing

- The Alabama Trauma Communication Center (ATCC) became the only communication option for research when the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in Tuscaloosa took a direct hit from the tornadoes. In addition, social network option utilizing staff members' smart phone to communicate with our staff was the only communication option for our staff during the disaster. X-ray and CT machines were limited because of the number of orthopedic injuries and the limited generator power. Druid City Regional Hospital (DCH) disaster plan requires 450 preplanned patient packets which ran out in the first three and half hours. Plan B was implemented which included the smart triage process. There were more than 600 patients treated with a total of 3 recorded deaths. Every available service providers was used to handle this event. DCH is currently trying to identify patient's records to put into the trauma registry. Problems identified were communications option with the outside and tracking patients
- DCH current backup plan for a direct hit to their hospital in Northport Hospital, Surgical Center and the University Medical Center. This issue is on the list of things to discuss at the community debriefing that is currently being coordinated.
- One of the suggestions to consider is "a one stop call center" to enter trauma system patients and report hospital resources for the AIMS system.

Region 5

There was no update provided.

Region 6

There was no update provided.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 21, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., in Montgomery at the RSA Tower, 201 Monroe Street, Suite 750, Office of EMS and Trauma.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.