



**Emergency Medical Services Council**



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**Quality Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 04, 2017, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
**North Ambulance Service**  
**4501 - 68th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center 55429**

**Draft Summary**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doug Kayser, Ridgeview Ambulance Service</li> <li>Paula Fink Kocken, M.D., Children’s Hospital Minneapolis</li> <li>Susan Long, Allina Health EMS</li> <li>Dave Rogers, Hennepin EMS</li> <li>Marnee Shepard, Fairview Southdale Hospital (via phone)</li> <li>Kevin Sipprell, M.D., Ridgeview Ambulance Service</li> <li>Kim Tast, North Memorial Ambulance Service</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marc Conterato, M.D., North Memorial Ambulance Service (Chair)</li> <li>Craig Essig, Edina Fire Department</li> <li>Greg Loppnow, M.D., University of Minnesota Medical Center</li> <li>Michael Seim, M.D., Methodist Hospital</li> <li>Medical Control Hospital Administrator (Vacant)</li> </ol>
<b>Guests</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brent Custard, North Memorial Ambulance Service</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew R. Maxwell</li> <li>Kristin Mellstrom (via phone)</li> </ol>

**Welcome and Introductions** – Acting Chair Dr. Kevin Sipprell, filling in Chair Dr. Marc Conterato, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. with a quorum present. After introductions the consent items (proposed April 4, 2017 agenda; meeting summary from January 3, 2017; and 2016 fourth quarter and year-end Response Time Standard reports) were approved.

**Response Time Standard Report** – The Committee discussed some issues that have arisen with the switch from collecting Response Time Standard (RTS) data directly from the ambulance services to utilizing the MN*Star* database as the source for RTS data. Matthew Maxwell explained that data for the city of Chanhassen is absent [in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter RTS report] because the city resides geographically within two counties (Hennepin County and Carver County) and only a tiny sliver of the city is within Hennepin County’s borders. Per Maxwell, all responses within the city of Chanhassen are being coded to Carver County, even those that occur in the Hennepin County area. Doug Kayser, with Ridgeview Ambulance Service (RAS), explained that out of roughly 25 responses RAS conducted in Chanhassen in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016 only two were within the Hennepin County portion of the city, but both records had been erroneously coded as occurring in Carver County. Kayser explained that RAS is switching to an

electronic patient care reporting system in the coming months and hopes the new system will clean up some of these minor discrepancies in Chanhassen.

Maxwell indicated that MN*Star* RTS data surrounding the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is also an issue, and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2016 RTS report shows no responses to the airport. Per Maxwell, there are normally 250-350 responses per quarter to the airport but all are currently being erroneously coded by Allina Health EMS (AHEMS) responders as either Fort Snelling, Bloomington, or Minneapolis. Maxwell added that he recently spoke with Jeff Czsyson, AHEMS Director of Operations, who indicated he is working with Bob Norlan with the EMSRB to investigate how to address this issue.

**System-Based Follow-up Process** – Sipprell briefly summarized past Committee discussions about developing a quality improvement (QI) patient follow-up process and presented the position paper drafted by Conterato. The Committee discussed many of the hurdles to implementing a patient follow-up process, noting that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) probably presents the greatest barrier since many health provider organizations interpret the law as severely limiting sharing of patient information, even between covered entities.

The Committee reviewed the Draft Position Paper and felt it was a great start and articulated the problem, current state, and potential solutions. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1) Some editorial clean-up is needed to correct minor grammar issues, mostly around use of abbreviations and acronyms that are very EMS centric and may not be commonly recognized by those outside the EMS and the healthcare industry.
- 2) The position paper should be written in the same (3<sup>rd</sup> person) voice consistently (it sometimes jumped between first and third person).
- 3) A statement pertaining to the Minnesota Data Privacy Act (DPA) and how it impacts, affects, and influences this subject should be included.
- 4) The use of the acronym “EMS” includes more than just ambulance services (dispatch centers, first responders, etc.), and some of those organizations may not be covered entities under HIPAA. Language should be consistent with HIPAA.
  - Investigate whether first responders are a HIPAA covered entity.
- 5) Request an opinion from the Hennepin County Attorney for Public Health on whether HIPAA or the Minnesota DPA presents a barrier to development of a patient follow-up process.
  - After the Hennepin County Attorney renders an opinion, request an opinion from the Minnesota State Attorney General on whether HIPAA or the Minnesota DPA presents a barrier to development of a patient follow-up process.
- 6) Contact Gretchen Musicant (Bloomington Public Health, and EMS Council member) who has lobbying experience and ask for a review of the position paper and feedback.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 2:20 p.m.

**Future meetings**, Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.; North Ambulance Service, Brooklyn Center:

- June 29, 2017 (10a-12p)
- October 3, 2017