

## Monroe/Livingston EMS System Pharmacy Committee

### Meeting Minutes

4/1/2008 3 PM – 4 PM

#### Present:

Sheri Adam	Office of Prehospital Care	
Barb Carroll	Pharmacy	Lakeside Memorial Hospital
Chris Dailey	Pharmacy	Lakeside Memorial Hospital
Jeremy Cushman MD		REMAC
Frank DeMarzo	Pharmacy	Nicholas Noyes Hospital
Terry Fairbanks MD		Chair, REMAC
Curtis Haas	Pharmacy	Strong Memorial Hospital
Mike Kuder		Chair, Pharmacy Committee
Nancy Nicoletta	Pharmacy	Rochester General Hospital
Bill Sheahan		Livingston County

Mike Kuder opened the meeting shortly after 3 PM. He noted that an invitation had been extended to a representative from Unity, Shahi Patel, who had a conflict and was unable to attend, and James Capparelli from Monroe Ambulance. Provisions were made to enable a telephone call in option for attendance. There was a round of introductions, with those present identifying themselves and the organizations they represented.

Dr. Fairbanks provided opening remarks, including a brief review of EMS in our region and the role of the pharmacy committee.

Mike Kuder provided those present with several handouts, including a contact list, the "ALS Medications Requirements" page from the 2008 MLREMS Standards of Care, the MLREMS Prehospital Medication Exchange System Organizational Plan (dated 2/26/02), the Pharmacy Committee By Laws, and a draft of a policy titled "Expired Drug Exchange". Mike elaborated briefly on the activity of the Pharmacy Committee in the past and discussed the motivation for this meeting. It had been identified that there was no documented policy for the exchange of expired medications that are stocked in the ALS drug box. Mike presented the draft policy, opening the meeting for discussion.

There was discussion on the role of the hospital pharmacies in restocking both non-profit and for profit agencies. Mike noted that this was a concern identified and discussed in the past. This led to discussion on current billing practices by both type of agencies. Mike noted that it had been a goal to standardize the practices, treating all parties equally, with participation of all agencies and all hospitals. This led to discussion of pharmacies supporting their hospitals on receipt of patients brought to their respective emergency departments. There was discussion on current practice on exchange of expired medications.

Sheri Adam provided an example of a recent expired drug exchange, by an agency that had depleted a hospital PYXIS Station, which is restocked on a schedule. There was discussion on what a pharmacy does with a medication which has expired verses what may be near expiration. It was noted that none of the medications being discussed is a "high value" item. There was discussion on exchange of one or more items from a single box verses restocking multiple items from multiple boxes. It was noted that a single box expired item exchange was not an issue. The example provided was a concern, because it could deplete a station or access point for all providers. It was noted for the sake of accountability, that for an expired item exchange, when restocking, the expired item should be returned.

A process for the restocking of multiple items from multiple drug boxes was discussed. Dr. Cushman proposed that the "ALS Medications Requirements" list be reformatted to appear as a form (shopping list) for use by an agency when restocking multiple items. This form could then be faxed to a hospital pharmacy for pick up by the agency representative after 2 business days. The exchange process could be posted on the MLREMS web site, with the form available for download.

This led to discussion on the possible over use of one hospital for the above process. It was recognized that this would be an unfair burden. Bill Sheahan discussed the resource hospital concept used in the past. This would assign a specific EMS agency to a specific resource hospital, spreading the burden of restocking equitably. Mike Kuder noted that he still had a document that did identify agencies and resource hospitals, but that it was several years old and out of date, considering the addition of ALS units by many agencies. Mike will work with the OPC and the chair of the ALS Committee to update the list of agency drug boxes and assigned resource hospitals.

There was discussion on provider access to controlled access stations, and the apparent need to update the list of providers, to forward to the pharmacies. Sheri Adam will work with the chair of the ALS committee to update and forward a list of those providers approved for access.

Mike Kuder told the members present that he would be responsible for circulating a draft of minutes of this meeting and revise the "Expired Drug Exchange Policy" to reflect those changes discussed. He would circulate a draft of the policy for comment by committee members, before forwarding it to the REMAC for consideration.

There was no discussion on the need for another meeting at this time.

The meeting ended shortly before 4 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Mike Kuder EMT-P