‘SHHH! DON’T TELL OUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR’

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www.wildernessdoc.com
OBJECTIVES

- Role of the Medical Director
- Medical / Legal Issues Review
- Questions/Discussion
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR?
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

- Ensure quality Patient Care

“Responsibilities include involvement with the ongoing design, operation, evaluation, and revision of the EMS system from initial patient access to definitive patient care.”

ACEP - Medical Direction of EMS
www.acep.org
NAEMSP

- National Association of EMS Physicians

- Roles and Responsibilities of Physician Medical Director (5 pages)

www.naemsp.org
POSITION STATEMENT ANTHOLOGY

- Expert Witness Qualifications and Ethical Guidelines for Issues Related to Emergency Medical Services Litigation
  - Approved 1/08
- Emergency Medical Dispatch
  - Approved 11/07
- Role of EMS in Disaster Response
  - Approved 10/07

www.naemsp.org/position.html
ACEP recommends the following books and resources:

- "Epocrates Advanced Pediatric Emergency Medicine Assembly April 14-16, 2009 Boston, MA"
- "Reimbursement Trends and Strategies in Emergency Medicine June 1-3, 2009 Hotel Del Coronado - San Diego, CA"
- "Advanced Procedure Coding for Emergency Medicine June 4-5, 2009 Hotel Del Coronado - San Diego, CA"

Choose a Topic
Choose an Activity

Clinical Policies
ACEP Policy Statements
Certification & Credentialing
Contracts & Compensation Arrangements
Disaster Preparedness and Response
Diversion
EMS
Ethics
Health Care Delivery Policies
Health System Reform Policies
Health Workforce Policies
Hospitals
Injury Prevention Policies
Managed Care Policies

Alt. Ambulance Transport and Destination
Appropriate Utilization of Air Medical Transport in the Out-of-Hospital Setting
Disaster Data Collection
Disaster Medical Response
Disaster Medical Services
Air Ambulance Medical Transport Advertising and Marketing
Discontinuing Resuscitation in the Out-of-Hospital Setting
Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) in the Out-of-Hospital Setting
Domestic Violence: The Role of EMS Personnel
Drug-Assisted Intubation in the Prehospital Setting

www.acep.org
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

• Several Courses for Medical Directors
  • NAEMSP (5 days)
  • ACEP
  • State of Wy (1st class last year in Cheyenne, WY)
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

- More than a Physician who gives a rubber stamp to your “blue book”
  - Set the standards for your EMS service - ensure they are met
- Be available and approachable
- Be in the field and part of the ‘team’
- Many, many, more responsibilities
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR

What can he/she expect from the EMS providers?
EMS PROVIDERS

• Expectations from Medical Director
  • Competent
  • Caring
  • Responsible
EMS PROVIDERS

• SHH! Don’t Tell Our Medical Director

• What don’t I want to hear?
WHAT DON’T I WANT TO HEAR?

• We (because it was never I) dropped a patient!
• Where is that extra vial of Morphine? The count is off!
• We had a needle stick on a HIV positive patient!
• One Time and Band Camp...
BIG 3 BAD ONES

• We crashed the ambulance and killed someone.
• The ER doc told us we had the ET tube in the wrong spot.
• You remember that patient refusal from the other day, well...
MEDICAL OVERSIGHT

• Direct
  • On-scene
  • On-line (radio/phone)

• Indirect
  • Protocols
  • QA review
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

• What are you authorized to do, by...?
  - Your Medical Director?
  - Your Ambulance Service (Job Description/Policies)?
  - Your Certification (State/Federal/Military)?
  - Your own ethical responsibility?
MEDICAL / LEGAL ISSUES

Good Samaritan Laws

• ‘Volunteer’ comes across an accident

• Some argue that this covers BLS only

  • No solid case law exists

• Summary of State Good Samaritan / AED laws

www.cprinstructor.com/legal.htm
Wyoming Good Samaritan Law

1-1-120.

Persons rendering emergency assistance exempt from civil liability.

(a) Any person licensed as a physician and surgeon under the laws of the state of Wyoming, or any other person, who in good faith renders emergency care or assistance without compensation at the place of an emergency or accident, is not liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions in good faith.

(b) Persons or organizations operating volunteer ambulances or rescue vehicles supported by public or private funds, staffed by unpaid volunteers, and which make no charge for services rendered during medical emergencies, and the unpaid volunteers who staff ambulances and rescue vehicles are not liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions in good faith in furnishing emergency medical services. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(c) Any person who provides assistance or advice without compensation other than reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in mitigating or attempting to mitigate the effects of an actual or threatened discharge of hazardous materials, or in preventing, cleaning up or disposing of or in attempting to prevent, clean up or dispose of any discharge of hazardous materials, is not liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions in good faith in providing the assistance or advice. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. As used in this subsection:

(i) "Discharge" includes leakage, seepage or other release;
(ii) "Hazardous materials" includes all materials and substances which are now or hereafter designated or defined as hazardous by any state or federal law or by the regulations of any state or federal government agency.
MEDICAL / LEGAL ISSUES

Good Samaritan Laws

• You can be sued for anything

• Do what is right for the patient
MEDICAL / LEGAL ISSUES

Malpractice / Negligence

- Duty to Act
- Deviation from Standard of Care (breach of duty)
- Patient harm occurred
- Harm resulted from the negligence
MEDICAL / LEGAL ISSUES

• Abandonment
• Confidentiality / HIPAA
• Crime Scenes
QA/QI

CAUTION

THIS SIGN HAS
SHARP EDGES

DO NOT TOUCH THE EDGES OF THIS SIGN

ALSO, THE BRIDGE IS OUT AHEAD
CONTACT INFORMATION

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