



Emergency Medical Services Council



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Ebola Pre-Hospital Preparedness Work Group Wednesday, October 29, 2014, 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Hopkins Fire Department
101 - 17th Avenue South, Hopkins 55343**

Draft Summary

Representation:

Allina Health EMS: Brian LaCroix, President
Brooklyn Park Fire: Ken Prillaman, Chief
Edina Fire: Darrell Todd, Asst. Fire Chief
Edina Police: Jeff Elasky, Lt.
HCMC and Hennepin County EMS Council: Brian Mahoney, M.D., **Chair**
Hennepin County Sheriff Communications: James Bayer, Capt.
Hennepin EMS: Doug Gesme, Asst. Director
Hennepin EMS: Jeffrey Ho, M.D., Ambulance Medical Director
Hennepin EMS: Kurtis Bramer, Duty Supervisor
Hopkins Fire: Dale Specken, Chief
North Memorial Ambulance Dispatch: Clif Giese, Communication Manager
North Memorial Ambulance: Mike Oliverius, Metro Operations Manager
North Memorial Ambulance: Pat Coyne, Director
Richfield Fire: Mike Dobesh, Asst. Fire Chief
Ridgeview EMS: Doug Kayser, Manager
Ridgeview EMS: Kevin Sipprell, M.D., Ambulance Medical Director
St. Louis Park Fire: John Wolff, Deputy Fire Chief
St. Louis Park Fire: Rodger Coppa, Asst. Fire Chief
St. Louis Park Fire: Steve Koering, Fire Chief
West Metro MRCC and Hennepin EMS Dispatch: Wendy Lynch, Communications Manager

Guests:

Ron Robinson, Metro Emergency Services Board, Metro Region EMS Coordinator
Marty Forseth, Dakota County Public Health, EMS Coordinator

Staff:

Suzanne Gaines
Matt Maxwell
Kristin Mellstrom

- I. **Planning context** was provided by Gaines, who explained the work group had been convened by the EMS Council's Executive Committee to coordinate pre-hospital Ebola-related questions within the Hennepin County EMS System. There was no disagreement to the Operational Periods being conceptualized as follows, with our current status as "a":
- a. **Some PUIs in Minnesota; no confirmed Ebola case(s) in FEMA Region V (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)**
 - b. Confirmed case(s) in Minnesota
 - c. Confirmed case(s) in Metro EMS Region
 - d. Epidemic in Minnesota
 - e. "Level Red" in our systemⁱ

There was no disagreement to these Draft Objectives for the current Operational Period:

- a. **Prevent the spread of Ebola (avoid activation of "Level Red")**
 - Protect human resources (first responders, EMS and hospital staff)
 - Maintain capacity of physical resources (PPE, ambulances, supplies, etc.)
 - Get Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) to emergency departments for care and diagnosis
- b. **Optimize care for all patients**

II. **Attendee updates** were provided by all participants, including their current operation status – what has changed, how it's going, solutions to problems, and any unresolved issues.

III. **Discussion of key pre-hospital issues** began by reviewing staff's list of possible concerns; none were eliminated, and several added during the conversation. The list of issues this group will address is:

- a. How to keep Primary PSAPs current and consistent with PUI screening factors
- b. How to minimize risk to PUI first responders
- c. How to minimize contamination of rigs
- d. How to get clean EMS crews back to base
- e. How to track PUI exposure (and EVD results) for first responders and EMS
- f. How to do IFT (interfacility) work for Confirmed EVD patients
- g. Will the five Ambulance Medical Directors provide guidelines for which hospital "highly suspicious PUIs" should be taken to?
- h. Will the five Ambulance Medical Directors provide adjusted protocols for treatment of "highly suspicious PUIs" exhibiting other urgent indicators?

IV. **Next steps:**

- 1. Prillaman will meet with other board members of the Metro Fire Chiefs and develop recommendations for our next meeting regarding First Responders ("b" above). Concepts will include:
 - a. having first responders stay outside to conduct a threshold interview
 - b. developing common language on what to do, appropriate to the level of risk

- c. requesting from EMS the best practices on donning/doffing, including on the best time and place to do this
2. Lynch, Bayer and Giese will meet to develop a recommendation on keeping our Primary and Secondary PSAPs current and consistent with screening factors (“a” above).
3. LaCroix will put together a recommendation, reflecting the work of other groups, regarding inter-facility transfers (“f” above).
4. Members agreed to re-convene for 2.5 hours on Wednesday, November 12, at Hopkins Fire.

V. The meeting **adjourned** at 4:02.

ⁱ See **Panflu Protocol 9035, approved 4/9/2009**. “Level Red” is defined as a situation in which EMS services are pending or not answering calls for which there is a significant risk of death for the patient. The protocol’s Ethical commitments are:

- A. Limitation of Individual Autonomy
- B. Transparency
- C. Justice/Fairness
- D. Assurance
- E. Documentation