

Texas EMS Trauma News

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2015 EMS Awards, Texas EMS Conference

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
Aristotle

Journey of Excellence Award

Kenneth Mattox, MD

EMS First Responder Award

Texas Department of Public Safety/TDEM

015 EMS Public Information/Injury Prevention Award

Austin-Travis County EMS AMBUS

EMS Administrator Award

Chief Fred Ortiz

EMS Educator Award

Debra Cason, LP, ACOR

Telecommunicator Award

Tammy Parker

Designated Trauma Facility Award

Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center

Private/Public Provider Award

Coryell Memorial EMS

EMS Medical Director Award

Mark Gamber, DO

EMS Air Medical Service Award

Air Evac Lifeteam 54

Citizen Award

Jimmy Turcios

EMS Person Award

Sandra Barclay, EMTI

Where do I find it?

Re: the latest draft of rule changes

Start at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/, look in the menu on the right hand side of the page and click on *Rules and Policies*. This will take you to the rules page where you can click on *Draft Rules*.

Finding Your Medical Director

By Chuck Rowe LP/AAS, EMS Specialist

A Medical Director needs to be more than the name on a form. As one of the most important roles for an EMS provider, the right Medical Director can mean the difference between success and failure or compliance and non-compliance. Regardless of the size of the provider, there are still *MANDATORY* requirements for the Medical Director; and the Medical Director along with the Administrator of Record are responsible for insuring these requirements are met and are held accountable when they are not.

Start with a well thought out job description that lists your expectations. Research the rules and regulations which describe the responsibilities of a Medical Director and make sure those are included in the job description. List performance measures, time-lines, accountability, consequences and/or incentives. Add what you consider to be the minimum amount of staff contact and what it should consist of, what are the responsibilities concerning CE education for staff, for PCR reviews, etc. Outline what you expect from your Medical Director in relation to staff counseling for clinical issues or in dealing with complaints from other physicians or facilities. Write it all into the job description.

When you interview the candidates provide the job description for them to review. Do not be afraid to ask questions! Do they have the time it takes to be an effective Medical Director? Be prepared for their questions! If a Medical Director candidate is willing to attach their license to an EMS provider, they should have questions about operations, certifications, and competency of staff to list a few.

You made your selection. Now what? Have your new Medical Director sign a contract or Memorandum of Agreement that includes the job description as a part of the contract. It should also address the issue of liability insurance, availability of the Medical Director and back-up when he or she is not available. Have a defined orientation. The new Medical Director will need to meet your staff, review your patient care records format, and review what training resources you have in place. Discuss the performance measures outlined for the Medical Director and how they will be accomplished and measured. Set up regular review dates to discuss progress, have a performance measure checklist to review with your Medical Director. Is he/she meeting those measures? Is there need for improvement? Is there need for revision? It is important to keep that open line of communication to make sure everyone's needs are met.

Once you put all that time and effort into selecting and preparing for your Medical Director, make it work! Follow the guidelines and timelines you have set in place. Your Administrator of Record will also have the responsibility of following up with the Medical Director. Expect your Medical Director to document his/her review of run records, set credentialing standards for employees who work under their medical license, stay in touch with your staff and be familiar with your operations. Many of the issues that arise or create non-compliance can be attributed to miscommunication or simply a lack of communication.

An active and invested Medical Director will be a positive influence on your organization. So invest the time, ask the right questions, and select a good fit for your organization.

The "Stop the Bleed" campaign provides bystanders of emergency situations with the tools and knowledge to stop life threatening bleeding. It is a nationwide campaign to empower individuals to act quickly and save lives by providing awareness of the simple steps that can be taken to stop or slow life threatening bleeding and to promote the general public access to bleeding control kits in public places.

You are encouraged to share this information with your community.

To get a downloadable copy of this infographic and more information on the "Stop the Bleed" campaign go to www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed.

A STANDARD INDICATOR OF TRAUMA SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS IS THE CASE FATALITY RATE. The trauma case fatality rate is the overall proportion of deaths within a particular population of trauma incidences. The Texas trauma case fatality rate for 2014 was 2.54, almost half a point lower than the 2013 rate of 2.96%.

External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services.
These sites may also not be accessible to persons with disabilities.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

FEATURED ARTICLES

Sanofi US Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Auvi-Q® Due to Potential Inaccurate Dosage Delivery <http://www.auvi-q.com/>

No Kickback Penalties For Free Hospital Transport, OIG Says <http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/docs/advisoryopinions/2015/AdvOpn15-13.pdf>

EMS Voluntary Event Notification Tool (E.V.E.N.T)- Third quarter 2015 (July – September) summary reports <http://event.clirems.org/>

Health and Human Services Commission Announces New Medicaid Director- Gary Jessee Announcement
<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/release/2015/103015-Medicaid-Director.shtml>

Dr. John Hellerstedt will Join DSHS as New Commissioner <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/release/2015/110915-DSHS-commissioner.shtml>

Additional Reading

Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons: <http://bulletin.facs.org/>

The Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons is published monthly by the American College of Surgeons.

Washington Update: <http://www.nasemso.org/NewsAndPublications/TheWashingtonUpdate/>

The Washington Update is produced bi-monthly by the National Association of State EMS Officials in cooperation with NHTSA OEMS, with funds also provided by HHS EMSC.

EMSC Program News: <http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc/currentnews/programnews/>

Ensuring that all children receive appropriate care in a health care emergency.

NACo County News: <http://www.naco.org/newsroom/countynews/Current%20Issue/1-13-14/Pages/default.aspx>

The voice of American counties.

The Pony Express: <https://www.bcm.edu/departments/pediatrics/texasemsc/?pmid=15790>

Official Newsletter of the EMSC State Partnership, Texas.

Integrated Healthcare Delivery: <http://ihdelivery.com/>

Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.

Texas EMS Alliance <http://txemsa.com/>

Questions, comments or suggestions about *Texas EMS Trauma News*? Contact us at EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us.