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MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

MILD TBI SUBCOMMITTEE
July 7, 2022
Meeting conducted via Zoom
MINUTES

J. SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

Members Present: Pret Bjorn (NL-EMMC), Julie Ontengco (MMC), Dr. Cynthia Richards(CMMC), Dr. Amy Fenwick (NL-EMMC)

Guests: Dr. Bruce Chung (MMC), Tammy Lachance (CMMC)

Staff Present: Dr. Kate Zimmerman (Trauma Systems Manager), Ashley Moody.

This meeting was conducted virtually on Zoom.

Discussion:

Dr. Cynthia Richards noted that the big differences between the TAC and MMC mild TBI guidelines are based around antiplatelets and anticoagulation medication.

Dr. Bruce Chung noted that the two protocols were created simultaneously and there was no intention of undermining or creating confusion with the 2 guidelines.

MMC Mild TBI plan involved neuro. They used historical research to help guide their decision as less than 1-5% of mild TBIs with antiplatelet/anticoagulants progress and the need for intervention is even lower.

July 2019 MMC – TBI went into effect. Mid Coast and Pen Bay have been used since 7/2019

Dr. Amy Fenwick is concerned that their physicians will not be supportive of keeping ASA Mild TBI patients at the local hospitals.

Dr. Bruce Chung highlighted that this is not an enforceable guideline and that any hospital wanting to send patients can. MMC will take them all if other institutions are not comfortable. These guidelines need to be “plastic”.

Tammy Lachance - MMC and NL-EMMC only places accepting. Should these two hospitals align?

Pret Bjorn – MMC taking a more conservative approach. Will other hospitals then want to send patients to EMMC?

Dr. Bruce Chung clarified that MMC will take them all.

Dr. Amy Fenwick agreed that NL-EMMC is doing the same. Given it is the receiving hospital that is determining what their comfortable having their neuro and trauma surgeon help stay at the outside facilities. TAC needs to determine what they are comfortable with.

Pret Bjorn suggested tracking of these transfers? Perception of refusing patients needs to be watched.

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If both centers (MMC and NL-EMMC) are happy with what is currently published continue on that path. It is a hope with continued conversations what possibly these guidelines can in the future be aligned.

Dr. Bruce Chung questioned if NL-EMMC would be interested in aligning with MMC guidelines. Dr. Amy Fenwick will run it by leadership at EMMC to see what their thoughts are.

CMMC will follow the TAC protocol with a conversation around the MMC guidelines. CMMC is often reaching out to neuro which is different guidelines and procedures. CMMC ED physicians are often calling MMC neuro docs directly and bypassing trauma entirely.

Plan moving forward:

Plan on check-in at TAC meetings.

Dr. Fenwick will report back with the decision of NL-EMMC to modify their procedure to align with MMC's.

Meeting adjourned at 13:38

Meeting Minutes Submitted by A. Moody

Approved on July 26, 2022

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