



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



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Medical Direction and Practices Board – December 20, 2023
Conference Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923 **Meeting Number:** 81559853848
Zoom Address: <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/81559853848>

Minutes

Members present: *Matt Sholl, Kate Zimmerman, Beth Collamore, Colin Ayer, Kelly Meehan-Coussee, Mike Bohanske, Seth Ritter, Tim Pieh, Benjy Lowry, Pete Tilney, Rachel Williams, Dave Saquet, Emily Wells*

Members Absent: *Bethany Nash*

MEMS Staff: *Chris Azevedo, Jason Cooney, Ashley Moody, Anthony Roberts*

Stakeholders: *Rick Petrie, Don Sheets, Carol Tibbetts, AJ Gagnon, Chip Getchell, Eric Wellman, Steve Almquist, Dwight Corning, Joanne Lebrun, Dr. Norm Dinerman, Rob Sharkey, Brian Langerman*

- 1) Introductions – 0930-0935 –Sholl
 - a. Dr. Sholl opens the meeting and acknowledges the storm emergency currently ongoing and likelihood of small attendance at today's meeting. Dr. Sholl thanks all that are able to attend today and notes that, as there are time-sensitive issues to be discussed as well as the need to deal with effects of the storm, today's meeting will be abridged to focus only on the time-sensitive topics. All other items will be postponed for the January meeting.
 - b. Dr. Sholl makes introductions and takes roll.
- 2) 2023 Protocol review process
 - a. Timeline review – Sholl/Zimmerman/Collamore -Postponed until January meeting
 - b. Discussion – ETCO2 at the EMT scope of practice/Head Injury Protocol – this topic was discussed as below.
 - i. Dr. Sholl and Chris Azevedo discuss issues of possible confusion regarding use of End Tidal CO2 (ETCO2) monitoring at the EMT level and the information provided in the protocol itself and protocol update training.
 1. Use of ETCO2 at the EMT level is currently not within the National EMS Scope of Practice model at the EMT level, nor is currently in the Maine scope of practice for EMTs.
 2. To include this in the EMT scope of practice, and to create training around this, at this time would require a greater lift than can be supported by the training centers and by Maine EMS at this time.
 3. Dr. Sholl apologizes that this was not caught or addressed earlier in the protocol update cycle.
 - ii. Dr. Meehan-Coussee shares her screen and discusses the pertinent Green section protocol – Head Trauma #1.
 1. The idea behind the verbiage change was that patients with severe traumatic brain injury who may not have an advanced airway in place should still have ETCO2 monitored, as well as those who do.

2. Regarding, the verbiage in the PEARL Head Trauma #2, pressure-controlled bags, ventilation rate timers should be used if available. ETCO2 monitoring should still be used if so trained and available. As EMTs are not trained in ETCO2 use, they are not included in this group of clinicians. Adjustment of ventilatory rates to meet ETCO2 goals is addressed in item #10 under AEMT/Paramedic and not under EMT.
 - iii. Dr. Sholl notes the banding/rocker on the left side of the protocol that indicates applicable scopes of practice might lead clinicians to believe that ETCO2 is indicated at the EMT level. Discussion.
 1. Dr. Zimmerman suggests that "AEMT/Paramedic only" might be inserted at the end of Item #3.
 2. Discussion of also adjusting or removal of the banding/rocker.
 3. Dr. Bohanske suggest developing some messaging regarding clarification of this section of protocol. Dr. Sholl suggests this might also be covered in the FAQ, with this item at the top.
 - iv. It is decided to take the following actions
 1. Remove the banding/rocker up to EMT
 2. Add the phrase "for AEMT/Paramedic only" at the end of Item #3
 3. Draft an FAQ document with this item as the first question addressed. This should go out as a clinical bulletin.
- 3) Special Circumstances Protocol Review
- a. Dr. Sholl shares his screen and Dr. Ritter discusses the proposed special circumstances protocol with the group.
 - i. The protocol regards a care plan for the use of a noninvasive ventilator for a patient respiratory conditions of multiple etiologies.
 - b. Motion made by Dr. Ritter to approve the protocol with the following additions:
 - i. Add to the EMT section, "CPAP is ineffective. Do not use CPAP"
 - ii. Add "Paramedic only" after dexamethasone
 - iii. Amend EMT #2 to state that the Trilogy should have oxygen attached to at least 3 lpm and be titrated up
 - iv. Add bolded reminder to include ventilator power cord among items to be transported to the hospital with the patient
 - c. Motion is seconded by Dr. Zimmerman. Dr. Sholl asks the group if they agree that the changes to the special care protocol which have been discussed and included in Dr. Ritter's motion be made by Dr. Ritter, Joanne Lebrun, and the patient's spouse, offline, and then brought back to Dr. Sholl for approval. This would mitigate the need for the protocol to come back to the MDPB and allow it to be put in effect as soon as possible.
 - d. The motion is carried.
- 4) State Update
- a. Update re: Director Search – Sholl/Zimmerman
 - b. Dr. Sholl discusses the hiring process for a new EMS Director.
 - i. Last month, the Commissioner and Human Resources had received 21 applications for the position. Those applications were reviewed by the Commissioner's office and 11 were selected for the next step of the hiring process. Those 11 applications were reviewed by Board Chair Amy Drinkwater, Past Chair Brent Libby, Past Chair Joe Kellner, and the Commissioner. Three finalists were selected and were interviewed in person by Drs. Sholl and Zimmerman, Chair Drinkwater, and Commissioner Sauschuck last week. The Commissioner is interviewing the remaining three candidates. We should expect to hear from him imminently regarding his final decision.
 - ii. No further discussion from the group.
 - c. Dr. Meehan-Coussee asks if there has been any work on filling the open positions for the EMS Board, or is there a process coming to fill the open positions?

- i. Anthony Roberts – the Board has not yet addressed this. It may come up on the agenda for the next Board meeting.
- ii. Dr. Meehan-Coussee asks regarding parties interested in filling vacancies. Dr. Sholl discusses. If there are individuals interested in the non-regional positions, they can reach out to Deputy Director Anthony Roberts.

5) Adjournment

- a. Dr. Sholl thanks the group and acknowledges difficulties posed by the storm and wishes the group happy holidays.
- b. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Collamore and seconded by Dr. Saquet. Meeting adjourned at 1025 hrs