

Pre-hospital Work Group

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Pre-hospital Work Group Priorities

- Interfacility transport from rural areas to Primary Stroke Centers
- Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)
- Telestroke as it relate to pre-hospital services/the work of the Pre-hospital Work Group

Interfacility Transport

- Trends in air services
- Trends in ground services
- Additional information needed to suggest recommendations for improvement

Trends in Air Services

- Certificate of Need (CON) requirement
- Improved placement in rural areas to facilitate better disbursement
- Decisions regarding which patients need air services
- Importance for NC to have a very prescribed group for use of air services, i.e., hyper-acute vs. need for comprehensive stroke services

Trends in Ground Services

- Positive trend
- Need for more communities to have a robust EMS system
- Research on what is done in regard to cardiac care transport, e.g., RACE
- Stroke capable/ready definition – capability as well as verification questions that need to be answered
- Collaboration with the Acute/Subacute Work Group on pre-identified plan for moving patients from rural hospitals to tertiary care

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)

- Improvements in the number of counties in NC that have EMD
- Use of statewide EMS meeting in October 2014 to get a pulse on:
 - Number of counties with EMD
 - Gaps with and barriers to implementing EMD
 - Quantify existing problem to develop plan to address it

Telestroke As Related to Pre-hospital Work

- Benefits and barriers
- New legislation regarding stroke capable hospital definition:
 - How this may drive increased use of telestroke services in NC hospitals
- Technology needed
- Multi-factorial barriers
- Funding issues:
 - Quantify need in order to apply for funding, e.g., KBR, TDE, others

Pre-hospital Strategies/Next Steps

- Work more collaboratively with the Acute/Subacute Work Group:
 - Identify and appoint a liaison to work in and between the two work groups
 - Periodically hold joint meetings, e.g., every third meeting
- Suggest joint meetings of all SAC Work Groups periodically to identify points of intersection and possible collaboration
- Next Pre-hospital Work Group meeting is set for November 5, 2014, 2:00 – 3:00 PM