

# Clinical Advisory Subcommittee of the Emergency Medical Care Committee

Meeting Minutes

10:15 AM June 19, 2025

2995 McMillan Way, Suite 178

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



## MINUTES

### MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Chair Dr. Stefan Teitge, *County Medical Society*  
Casey Hidle, *Lead Field Training Officer*  
Dr. Heidi Hutchison, *ED Physician, Tenet*  
Katie Wong, *MICNs*  
Nate Otter, *Ambulance Paramedics*  
Lisa Epps, *Air Ambulance*  
Tim Nurge, *Medical Director Appointee*

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rob Jenkins, *Fire Service Paramedics*  
Dr. Kyle Kelson, *ED Physician, Tenet*  
Tim Nurge, *Medical Director Appointee*  
Dr. Lucas Karaelias, *ED Physician Dignity*  
Paul Quinlan, *Fire Service EMTs*  
Jeffrey Hagins, *Air Ambulance*  
Arneil Rodriguez, *Ambulance EMTs*

### EMS AGENCY STAFF PRESENT:

Alyssa Vardas, *EMS Administrative Assistant*  
Ryan Rosander, *EMSA*  
Rachel Oakley, *EMSA*  
Bill Mulkerin, *EMS Medical Director*

### EMS AGENCY STAFF ABSENT:

Eric Boyd, *EMSA*  
Kaitlyn Blanton, *EMSA*

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Ryan Rosander called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m. He led the review of the meeting protocols and meeting agenda.

## 2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF April 17, 2025, Summary Notes

**Action: Heidi Hutchison moved approval of April 17, 2025, Clinical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary Notes. Casey Hidle seconded. Motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

#### Policy 203 Patient Refusal:

This revision was initially requested for a change in definition and language regarding patient “competency” to “mental capacity”. Since then, “mental capacity” was further specified to “medical decision-making capacity,” a tool or simple process was included to assist EMS personnel in determining a patient’s medical decision-making capacity.

There was a request to remove “against medical advice” or “AMA” from policy at our Operations Committee Meeting. After much discussion, AMA language is considered overused and doesn’t accurately fit most situations it’s being used for. The AMA definition has been removed from policy as requested, and all patient refusals will be documented as a refusal. Procedures remain the same for when ALS services are indicated; however, a patient is refusing those services.

#### Discussion

- N. Otter says we should let the ER and MICNs know about this and bring them into the loop.
- H. Hutchison mentions that it is important to document that you have tried to contact the hospital and law enforcement.
- S. Teitge says he thinks that the crews should know the doctors are not trained on this.

#### Paramedic Policy Revisions:

Paramedic policies 341 and 342 for initial accreditation and reaccreditation were last revised on March 1, 2023. Since that time, there have been many conversations regarding clarifying information currently in policy and also making a few changes. On December 5<sup>th</sup> of 2024, EMS personnel policy revisions were discussed with the Operations Subcommittee.

#### Discussion

- N. Otter asks if someone has an LOA, why do we have to submit a return to work if someone is on vacation? He suggests establishing a time frame for how long someone is gone.
- R. Oakley says that we take the employer's plan.
- N. Otter says he is fine with 60 days.

Procedure 704 Opioid Withdrawal: On May 15, 2025, EMCC approved SLOEMSA’s Opioid Withdraw protocol. However, it was recommended that the policy should return to CAC to discuss changing the medication outlined in the protocol from Suboxone to Buprenorphine. The reason behind this change was that Buprenorphine is cheaper and more readily available to stock. More importantly, Buprenorphine is more widely studied in an EMS setting than Suboxone.

### Discussion

- S. Teitge says that this looks good.
- N. Otter asks if there will be support from the county.
- H. Hutchison asks if there is a coalition for this.
- B. Mulkerin says that we eventually want to triage to alternate destinations.

### **3. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

SGAs for EMTs, Pediatric SGAs for Paramedics, Mechanical CPR devices, and OB protocols.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action: Heidi Hutchison moved to move the protocols and policies forward to EMCC. Stefan Teitge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Stefan Teitge adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am



