

CLINICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Minutes	Clinical Issues Committee
Date	December 4, 2023
Time	1:00 pm CST
Location	Poplar Room, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN
Participants	Joe Holley, Christopher Cox, Brandon Quillen, Kevin Spratlin, David Burdett, Amanda Derington, Michael Revelle, Ron Buchheit, Mary Lemley, Matthew Owens, Brandon Ward, Russell Gupton, Dwight Davis, Drew Hooker

Overall Lead	Topic	Summary / Decision	Assignments / Next Steps	Responsible Person	Time Frame
Dr. Holley	Roll Call	The meeting was called to order by Dr. Holley at 1009. Dr. Holley conducted a roll call by sign-in sheet, and a quorum was present.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dr. Holley	Election of a committee secretary	The committee was asked by Dr. Holley for nominations. Kevin Spratlin was nominated. Matthew Owens stated he would jointly assist in the secretary role. A vote was not taken.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dr. Holley	Old minutes	The minutes from the March 15, 2023, meeting were presented. Dr. Holley provided an overview of the topics which were discussed in that meeting.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dr. Holley	Overview of the responsibilities of this committee	Dr. Holley gave an overview of the responsibilities of the committee, including the ambulance equipment specifications document.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Director Ward	Committee meeting attendance	Director Ward informed the committee that the governor's office has directed that members must attend at least fifty percent of scheduled meetings and asked that they let him know if they are not able to do so. Director Ward provided the committee with a list of meeting dates through 2026, explaining that all meetings have to be "sun shined" and that the two board rooms at this building allow for these meetings to be open to the public but are used by multiple boards. This makes scheduling difficult.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Holley</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Belt buckle devices</p>	<p>Dr. Holley explained that these devices are placed over the buckle of the stretcher strap and are designed to stop someone from pressing the button and releasing the strap. Most of the belt buckle devices require a tool to open. Concerns have been raised regarding patient safety for extrication and legality of use with all patients. The devices are used by a number of agencies and are sometimes utilized with psychiatric patients and those who are suicidal. The device must be permanently affixed and cannot be easily removed. The use of the device means that a person is restrained without their consent and cannot escape. Director Ward informed the committee that CMS considers this to be a violation of patient rights because the patient cannot consent. He stated that the EMS Board asked that this committee review the use of this device and make a recommendation. Dr. Holley stated that this committee had previously had a long discussion about the use of these devices and that he had drafted an “approved clinical practices” document. This was presented to the EMS Board and there were questions about what other states were doing and what organizations recommended. The issue was sent back to this committee. Dr. Holley stated that he investigated these devices and found that no organization or state say nothing about their use. He has not found any state that banned the device or approved the device. A motion was made by Dr. Holley to reiterate the approved clinical practice and that the committee is not in favor of these devices being permanently attached to the stretcher strap. The motion was seconded by Revelle and passed unanimously.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Report recommendation to Board of EMS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Holley</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Next EMS Board meeting</p>
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Director Ward	Future meeting dates	<p>The suggested dates for future meetings were distributed. The committee prefers that the meetings begin at 10:00am. There was a question about the number of members assigned to the committee. Director Ward stated there were 19 positions including four vacant slots. A quorum requires fifty percent of members plus one be present. A motion to accept the future meeting dates was made by Owens and seconded by Derington. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	Tory Ferguson will determine if morning time is available	Director Ward	unknown
Dr. Holley	New business	<p>Dr. Holley was given three new items of business to consider. The first item concerned anti-choking device. It was asked if these could be used as a back-up device to traditional abdominal thrusts. Two examples of this device which are on the market are FDA-registered but not FDA-approved. Dr. Holley explained to the committee that, for the sake of historical consistency, the committee does not routinely approve individual devices. Instead, the committee has said that a device can be used if it is FDA-approved. Director Ward informed the group that any extra items that are carried on ambulances must be functional and must be in-date. He also pointed out that every device currently carried on ambulances is FDA-approved, not just FDA-registered. The committee agreed that the members should continue with its past practice of saying that a device can be used if it is FDA-approved and approved by the agency medical director.</p> <p>The second item of new business regarded the Air-Q 3 device. There was a question submitted which asked if the device authorized by the state for use as a back-up airway device. The committee agreed</p>	Report recommendations to EMS Board	Dr. Holley	Next EMS Board Meeting

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		<p>that the device is a supraglottic airway and is FDA-approved. There was no action necessary for this request. The second question regarded use of the device by fire or law enforcement personnel. The EMS office does not regulate these personnel unless they are licensed EMS providers.</p> <p>The third item of new business concerned umbilical vein cannulization by EMS providers. It was discussed that this procedure was not within the scopes of practice for EMS providers. Dr. Holley recommended that if someone wishes to perform this procedure, they should come before the committee and present their plan. During the discussion, EMS Board member Drew Hooker spoke to the committee about the closure of rural hospitals and the need to train EMS providers on OB matters, as well as guidelines and equipment.</p> <p>Dr. Revelle discussed fire services which are increasing their footprint in EMS but do not have an interest in transporting patients. He stated that fire services in his area had approached him about purchasing and utilizing medications. Director Ward discussed that first fire departments operate their first responder programs under the authority and/or licensure of an ambulance service. There was additional discussion concerning DEA regulations and the purchase of narcotics. Director Ward also spoke about discussions of his office regulating fire agencies and the additional costs that would be incurred, including the need for additional inspectors and office space.</p>			
	Next Meeting	March 13, 2024, at 10:00am in Poplar Room	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Adjournment	Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 2:56pm.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Minutes recorded and submitted by Kevin Spratlin. Minutes are not necessarily recorded in order of discussion.