**Georgia Trauma Commission Rehab Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

[Link to Meeting Documents and Attachments](https://trauma.georgia.gov/events/2023-11-09/gtc-rehabilitation-committee-meeting)

November 9, 2023

Microsoft Teams

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| **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT** | **REPRESENTING** |
| Vox, Ford, Chair | Shepherd Center |
| Clark, Kathy | August University |
| Gohman, Kevin | Northeast Georgia Medical Center |
| Johnstone, Brick | Shepherd Center |
| Kidwell, Susannah | Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta |
| Tipton, Gina | Atrium Health Navicent |

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| **OTHERS PRESENT** | **REPRESENTING** |
| Atkins, Elizabeth | Georgia Trauma Commission |
| Saye, Gabriela | Georgia Trauma Commission |
| Solomon, Gina | Georgia Trauma Commission |
| Fitzgerald, Brandi | Phoebe Putney Memorial |
| Mlaver, Eli | Emory |

**STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Ford Vox called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, with six members present. Two topics were highlighted for discussion: engaging with Dr. Eli Mlaver to explore potential analyses of trauma data focusing on rehabilitation and revisiting the contribution of rehab hospitals in the database.

**Data analysis discussion**

*Presented By Dr. Ford Vox and Dr. Eli Mlaver*

Dr. Mlaver reviewed the database containing rehab data from 2022. The dataset is comprised of over 41,000 patients with several patient and hospital data points. He emphasized the need to decide on specific questions for analyses. Dr. Vox proposed analysis of:

* Referral patterns based on injury severity scores and payer status
* Disparities between trauma center levels and their referral patterns

Dr. Gina Tipton asked if a heat map based on bed resources and referral patterns could help determine the impact on trauma centers. Eli was curious to know if anyone had done that kind of analysis before; we would have to investigate if the geographical data is available.

The committee discussed the challenges of accurately capturing payer sources in the trauma center database. They acknowledged that while it is a required field, the information entered may only sometimes be complete or accurate, and they are looking into ways to improve data collection in the future.

Dr. Vox emphasized the ACS recommendation, specifically analyzing TBI and spinal cord injury referral patterns, and recommended including those in the analysis. Dr. Eli mentioned that the data with ICD codes and free text descriptions would help determine the placement of rehab facilities. Eli suggested having a library of appropriate codes for analysis, and Gina Solomon mentioned she could provide reference codes for severe TBI and spinal cord injuries.

The group discussed the need for more resources, particularly in terms of time and personnel, to conduct various types of analysis. They also explored the possibility of sharing data and collaborating on specific areas of interest, such as pediatric cases, and incorporating state rehab facilities into the database.

The committee requested a copy of the dataset. Liz Atkins must check with the attorneys to ensure we can share the data. Dr. Mlaver advised he can share aggregate data if that is helpful.

**Rehab facility Data contribution**

*Presented By Dr. Ford Vox*

Dr. Vox shifted the discussion to incorporating the state’s rehab facilities into the database. Descriptive metrics were considered challenging, but Dr. Vox proposed using general metrics collected by CMS and the US News World Report. He suggested tabulating services and proposed basic quality metrics like acute transfer rates, functional levels of admission, and discharge.

Discussion ensued about the proposed list of service lines, including whether percentages or absolute numbers should be used. Additional suggestions were made, including adding Therapeutic Recreation, child life services, and special educators for adolescents.

Dr. Vox proposed sending letters to all rehab facilities requesting information on service lines and capacities. Dr. Susannah Kidwell offered to send additional ideas, emphasizing the importance of school reentry programs and specific adolescent services.

**Summary of Action Items & Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, Dr. Vox encouraged committee members to join the Georgia Trauma Commission meetings in person or virtually. The next Commission meeting is November 16th, starting at 9 am. All Commission meetings are posted on the website <https://trauma.georgia.gov/events>.

The committee reviewed upcoming committee meeting dates for 2024 (**ATTACHMENT A**). Gabriela Saye confirmed calendar invites will be sent and posted to the website.

Dr. Vox thanked the committee for their time, acknowledged their work, and opened the floor for final comments. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

**Summary of Action Items & Adjournment**

* The committee discussed possible options for rehab data analysis. Suggestions included:
  + Analysis of referral patterns based on injury severity scores and payer status
  + Disparities between trauma center levels and their referral patterns.
  + TBI and spinal cord injury referral patterns
* Gina Solomon mentioned she would be able to provide reference codes to Dr. Eli Mlaver for severe TBI and spinal cord injuries.
* The committee requested a copy of the dataset. Liz Atkins must check with the attorneys to ensure we can share the data. Dr. Mlaver advised he can share aggregate data if that is helpful.
* Dr. Vox proposed sending letters to all rehab facilities requesting information on service lines and capacities. Dr. Susannah Kidwell offered to send additional ideas.
* The 2024 meeting dates were reviewed, with calendar invites forthcoming (**ATTACHMENT A**)
* The next committee meeting is January 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

Minutes by Gabriela Saye