**Trauma Medical Directors Committee**

**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 20, 2024

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Hybrid | Chateau Elan & Zoom

[Meeting Material](https://trauma.georgia.gov/events/2024-05-20/gtc-trauma-medical-director-committee-meeting)

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| **COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE** | |
| **COMMITTEE MEMBERS** | **REPRESENTING** |
| Dr. Dennis Ashley  Dr. James Dunne  John Mayfield  Catherine Martin  Clarence McKemie  David Carney  Justin Sobrino  Courtney Pettiford  David Kiefer  Laura Johnson  Elizabeth Benjamin  Steve Paynter  Peter Yen  Gregory Patterson  Kendrix Evans  David Lawrence  Naila Avery  Lemuel Dent  Michael Shotwell  John Simmons  Arina Schinelli  Mark Benak  Howard Bowers  Barry Renz  Keren Aviva Bashan  Elizabeth Fox  Robyn Hatley  Jacob Holloway  Kevin Hord  Ezaldeen Numur  Reginald Orr | Georgia Trauma Commission, Chair, Atrium Health Navicent, TMD  Georgia Trauma Commission, Vice-Chair, Memorial Health University Medical Center, TMD  AdventHealth Redmond, TMD  Atrium Floyd Polk Med Center, TMD  Atrium Health Floyd, TMD  Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, TMD  Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, TMD  Doctors Hospital of Augusta, TMD  Effingham Hospital, TMD  Emory/Grady, BMD  Grady, TMD  Hamilton Medical Center, TMD  JMS Doctors Hospital of Augusta, Practice Administrator/ Medical Director Designee  John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TMD  Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, TMD  Morgan Medical Center, TMD  Northside Hospital Gwinnett, TMD  Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, TMD  Piedmont Cartersville, TMD  Piedmont Athens Regional, TMD  Piedmont Henry, TMD  Piedmont Walton, TMD  South Georgia Medical Center, TMD  Wellstar Cobb Hospital, TMD  Wellstar Kennestone, TMD  Wellstar MCG, TMD  Wellstar MCG CHOG, TMD  Wellstar North Fulton, TMD  Wellstar Paulding Medical Center, TMD  Wellstar Spalding, TMD  Wellstar West Georgia, TMD |

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| **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT** | **STAFF AND OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT** |
| Dr. Dennis Ashley, GTC Chair  Dr. James Dunne, GTC Vice-Chair | Elizabeth V. Atkins, GTC, Executive Director  Katie Hamilton, GTC, Finance Operations Officer  Gabriela Saye, GTC, Business Operations Manager  Crystal Shelnutt, GTC, Regional Trauma Systems Development Mgr  Gina Solomon, GTC, GQIP Director  Travis Perry, JMS at Wellstar Cobb, Burn and Wound Center Medical Director |

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM with twenty-six committee members present. The meeting was attended by committee members online and in person, led by Dr. Dennis Ashley and Dr. James Dunne on behalf of Dr. Matthew Vassy.

**EARLY TRANSFER GUIDELINES**

***Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley and Dr. James Dunne***

Dr. Dennis Ashley provided a brief history of the initial patient transfer letter distributed to non-trauma centers. About ten ago, trauma medical directors created a poster to guide non-trauma centers on when to transfer patients without extensive diagnostics (**ATTACHMENT A**). Based on recent survey feedback, the current goal is to revisit and potentially update this approach.

Committee members discussed their experiences and identified challenges with transportation delays and occasional unnecessary diagnostic tests before transfer. Generally, it was noted that transfers have been timely, and appropriate patient transfers are facilitated with minimal additional workup. The major problem is transportation. Dr. Patterson also noted there is different variability in transfer guidelines across different states, noting stricter protocols in Florida compared to Georgia's more flexible approach. Additionally, he advised integrating MARCH PAWS, a new training program inspired by military protocols adapted for civilian use, with the training poster to provide basic trauma management skills to rural hospitals.

The discussion shifted to the issue of transportation delays. Liz Atkins provided an update on legislative efforts, particularly Senate Bill 515, which aimed to fund an EMS pilot targeting Regions 2 and 8. The bill proposed funding for two ambulances at $4.1 million. Despite broad support, the bill did not pass due to the time constraints of the legislative session. Liz emphasized that legislators know the transport issues. Dr. Ashely added that the group needs to continue advocating for legislative support to improve patient transfers.

Dr. Dunne asked committee members for additional recommendations regarding patient transfer. Dr. Carney recommended implementing statewide image-sharing technology. In 2024, everyone should have access to Powershare capabilities, and our internal radiology colleagues should be willing to over-read films. Collaboration with the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) was suggested to standardize image transfer protocols and mandate image transfer capabilities for all hospitals.

The committee also discussed telemedicine as a possible solution for remote patient management, providing real-time support to stabilize patients before transfer. Dr. Clarence McKemie proposed direct transfers to trauma centers for patients meeting specific criteria, inspired by Alabama's trauma network, which uses a central control system to direct patients based on real-time capacity data.

Committee members agreed to update the transfer guidelines and improve education for patient transfers.

**MOTION GTCNC TMD COMMITTEE 2024-05-01:**

**Motion to revise the transfer guidelines letter and poster to distribute along with MARCH PAWS**

**MOTION BY**: Dr. Greg Patterson

**SECOND BY:** Dr. James Dunne

**VOTING:** All members are in favor of the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion ***PASSED*** with no objections nor abstentions.

Dr. Dunne proposed creating a workgroup with Dr. Vassy to help update the transfer guidelines and educational materials. Volunteers included Dr. Greg Patterson, Dr. Clarence McKemie, Dr. David Carney, and Dr. Courtney Pettiford.

**EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Presented by Liz Atkins***

Committee members were asked to review the equipment purchased by EMS agencies within the last grant cycle (**ATTACHMENT B**). Liz Atkins advised the previous grant cycle allotted about $800 per 911-zone ambulance to purchase trauma-care equipment. The EMS Committee has requested feedback from Trauma Medical Directors to recommend essential trauma-care equipment for ambulances.

Recommendations included:

* Pediatric monitoring equipment
* Fluid warmers
* Warm blankets
* Blood products

Before adjournment, Dr. Ashley encouraged members to stay proactive and involved in legislative advocacy regarding transportation issues. Efforts for legislative support should begin immediately to define the request and the funding needed to support EMS transportation needs.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING/ACTION ITEMS**

* Committee approved to revise the transfer guidelines letter and poster (**ATTACHMENT A)** to distribute along with MARCH PAWS.
* Dr. Dunne proposed creating a workgroup with Dr. Vassy to help update the transfer guidelines and educational materials. Volunteers included Dr. Greg Patterson, Dr. Clarence McKemie, Dr. David Carney, and Dr. Courtney Pettiford.
* Committee members reviewed the equipment purchased by ambulance services and recommended the following equipment: pediatric monitoring equipment, fluid warmers, warm blankets, and blood products.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye*