

March 2006



NORTHWEST REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND
TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL

What's Happening

The Lowdown on Documentation

Most emergency service providers can do documentation in their sleep. This procedure has been drilled into them since day one and although at 3am the wonders of thorough documentation may be lost to them, it is a task that is done as a matter of course. For the rest of us, here are a couple of pointers for effective documentation:

- What should be documented? The details of anything you may need to remember at a later date. Whether you are recording details about a patient contact, the stalker who is harassing you, or the contents of your home for insurance purposes, the events detailed may be wide-ranging but the information can often be critical at a later date.
 - Remember that your boss may be requiring documentation but you are really doing it for yourself. The better your documentation, the more you protect, not your boss, but yourself.
 - How you should document will probably be prescribed by protocol. You can write out the details of an event on a form, enter it into a computer, take pictures, make an audio recording or take a video...whichever best fits your purposes. How do you think the Rodney King jury would have been affected if the details had been reported in a written report instead of on video?
 - Be sure to capture all of the details of an event and be as specific as possible. Times can be incredibly important on patient contact sheets. If you are recording details on your valuables you will want to include price, brand, purchase date, etc. If a stalker has been harassing you, you will want to include dates, times, actions, and witnesses.
 - Be sure to remain as objective as possible when documenting your case. "The patient is an idiot" has actually been written on MIRs. While you may know this is true and empirical evidence may point to this as well, remember that you will need to be able to prove what you document. Better to write "the patient reported that he wanted to see what it would be like to skateboard off the roof of his house" and let the details speak for themselves.
 - If you must write out a report, write clearly. Someone else will probably be reading the report down the line without the benefit of an interpreter so take pity on them and write as legibly as possible.
 - Remember that sometimes the information you record will wind up in front of a judge and become a permanent record. You don't want anything you did (or didn't do) coming back to haunt you. Remember the old EMS adage of "if you didn't write it, it didn't happen".
 - Include details even if they don't make sense at the time. The victim said 'jerrycurl' before losing consciousness. Maybe they were having a flashback, maybe you didn't hear them right, maybe they were looking at your hair, maybe that was the name of the perpetrator. Record now and sort out the details later.
 - Finally, documentation should be done as soon as possible. Critical details can be lost or clouded if you wait too long after an event to record what happened.
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Mark Your Calendar!

DUI Panels

- March 1; 7pm Gig Harbor Civic Center; Gig Harbor, WA 253-884-0715
March 9; 6:30pm Pt Angeles City Council Office; Pt Angeles, WA 360-417-2385
March 11; 9am Pt Townsend Rec Center; Pt Townsend, WA 360-385-9135
March 14; 7pm (Youth) Abundant Life Foursquare Church; Bremerton, WA 360-731-5139
March 16; 7pm (Adult) Abundant Life Foursquare Church; Bremerton, WA 360-731-5139
March 29; 7pm Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church; Bainbridge Island, WA 360-731-5139



Base Station Meetings

Jefferson County EMS

March 2

'Behavioral Overview—
Psychosis/Violent Patient/
Response to Crisis'

Chimacum, WA

crodrigues@jgh.org

Kitsap County EMS

March 2

'Spinal Trauma'

Silverdale, WA

360-473-5997

Council Meetings

March 7; 7pm Jefferson County EMS Council
Chimacum Fire Department, Chimacum, WA

West Olympic Peninsula EMS Council Forks Hospital—Meets
every other month; next meeting is in April

March 16; 6pm Mason County EMS Council
Mason General Hospital; Shelton, WA

March 16; 12pm Clallam County EMS Council
Olympic Medical Center; Pt Angeles, WA

March 22; 9am Kitsap County EMS Council
Kitsap County EMS Office; Bremerton, WA

EMS Live@Nite

When: March 14 6:45pm

Where: Via video conference

Topic: "The Agitated Patient—How to
Restrain Yourself"

More Info: 509-232-8155

Other Meetings in the Northwest Region

March 1—Mason County Inter-Agency

March 9—NWR QI Meeting

March 9—NWR Council Meeting

More Upcoming Events

Regional EMS Conferences

- March 17 & 18; East Region EMS Conference; Spokane, WA
877-326-6499
- Sept 29-Oct 1; North Central Region EMS Conference; Wenatchee,
WA; 509-664-4032

Mark Your Calendar!

EMS Provider Courses

PALS—March 27 & 28 at Harrison Hospital; Silverdale, WA 253-403-1713

ACLS—March 17 & 18 at Jefferson Healthcare; Pt Townsend, WA 360-385-2200 x2083

EMS Evaluator—March 11 at Clallam Bay FD; Clallam Bay, WA 360-479-5631

SEI Workshop—March 15 at NKFR; Kingston, WA 360-473-5997

EMT Course—April 11 to June 4 at Chimacum FD; Chimacum, WA 360-301-5984

Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference

Theme: 'Preparing for Regional
Catastrophe'

When: April 18 & 19

Location: Tacoma Convention and
Trade Center

To Register:
[www.capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emerg
encyprep/](http://www.capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emerg
encyprep/)

**List your
event here!
Email us at
[nwems@
hurricane.
net.](mailto:nwems@hurricane.net)**

Focus On: The Washington Poison Center

The Poison Center is here for EMS, too! The Washington Poison Center in Seattle is available state-wide for emergency and non-emergency telephone consultation regarding the entire spectrum of poisons and drugs—from the latest information on new medications to the most current medical management of toxic substance exposures. 1-800-709-0911 is an unpublished back line, reserved exclusively for use by emergency services personnel in contacting the Washington Poison Center. Calls to this number, as well as the general published number of 1-800-222-1222, are answered 24 hours a day by Poison Information Specialists who are registered nurses, pharmacists, and other health care professionals. The specialists are backed up at all times by a board certified physician toxicologist.

Using a national computerized database along with local references and physician-reviewed treatment guidelines, the Poison Center staff offers assistance with a wide variety of information and exposure calls. These calls range from questions about medication interactions, household cleaning product ingestions and drug overdoses to chemical incidents and hazardous materials exposures. 87% of the 200 to 300 poison exposure calls handled daily by the Washington Poison Center are safely managed at home or on site with evaluation, care instructions, and follow-up calls by the staff. This reduces the number of unnecessary and potentially costly ambulance transports and emergency department visits. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has concluded that every dollar spent on a poison center saves seven dollars in overall health care costs.

The Washington Poison Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization contracted by the Washington State Department of Health. Funding comes from the state, federal government, and private contributions. In your role as an emergency medical services provider, consider the Poison Center a valuable resource when it comes to pre-hospital care of the poisoned patient. The Washington Poison Center welcomes emergency services personnel, nurses, students, pharmacy externs, and medical residents for observation times throughout the year. If you are interested in scheduling a tour or would like more information, please contact Joe Cropley at (206) 517-2383 or toll free 1-800-572-4104 ext. 2383 or cropley@wapc.org.

Poison Center Fast Facts

- National Poison Prevention Week is March 19th-25th.
- Mr Yuk stickers can be obtained from the Washington Poison Center by calling 1-800-222-1222.
- All calls to the Poison Center are answered by a live person, there is no more voice menu system.
- In 2005, the Washington Poison Center answered 92,408 calls—an average of 253 calls a day.
- The top five exposure calls in 2005 were for ibuprofen, diaper care/rash products, acetaminophen (generic Tylenol), anti-depressants, and hypochlorite (chlorine bleach).
- The Poison Center's quarterly newsletter is available on their website at www.wapc.org. You can also sign up on the website to have the newsletter delivered to your email each quarter.
- Educational materials including brochures, fact sheets, first aid cards, magnets and phone cards are available by calling 206-517-2359 or 800-572-4104 x2359.
- Did you know that parents are six times more likely to give the wrong dose of a liquid than a solid medication to their child?
- Did you know that suicide and other intentional poisonings compromise more than half of the calls to the Poison Center for teenagers?

Did You Know?

- There's a new National Sex Offender website which allows a person to enter their address and immediately pull up a map of all registered sex offenders including, name, address and photo, who live in their neighborhood. Check out this website at www.familywatchdog.us.
- In honor of Poison Prevention Week, the Washington Poison Center is sponsoring a poster contest for all third, fourth and fifth graders in Washington State. For entry information, go to www.wapc.org/ppw/postercontest.htm.
- FEMA has given first responders their own information page on the FEMA website. For preparedness resources for first responders ranging from grants and training to exercises and assessment processes, go to www.fema.gov/fema/first_res.shtm.
- Speaking of preparedness, RAND offers a Public health Preparedness Database which provides a range of preparedness information. Everything from exercise design and evaluation guidelines to a searchable database of past, present and future preparedness exercises is available at www.rand.org/health/projects/php/.
- King County has added an illegal drug lab cleanup page to their website. Besides a lot of great information about illegal drug labs, they also include an IMAP feature that allows the user to locate known illegal drug labs within a geographical area as well as check on the decontamination status of known drug labs in King County. Go to www.metrokc.gov/health/methlabs/ to check out this great site.
- There will be a Washington State Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Summit on April 14th at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. This is a national campaign to inform and encourage people to be prepared should a pandemic strike. For more information, call Gail Zimmerman at 360-236-4087.
- On April 4th and 5th there will be a 3-Flags conference at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel in Wenatchee. This event will provide information to all law enforcement officers and support staff about the upcoming "Click It or Ticket" safety belt enforcement blitz scheduled for May 15th through June 3rd. Attendees will receive traffic safety training as well as information on grants available for this event. Call Angie Ward at 360-753-0877 for more information.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission does a great job of keeping unsafe products out of the hands of the public. To sign up for their email announcement on unsafe products or to report a hazardous product, please go to their website at www.cpsc.gov or call 800-638-2772.
- The Center for Advocacy and Personal Development will be offering a free workshop on "Socialization of Children with Social/Emotional Issues" on March 8th at their office in Shelton. Call 360-426-5430 to register.
- Did you know that free intensive case management services are available in Mason and Thurston Counties for chemically dependant individuals, with or without mental health issues? This is a great service that assists these individuals with dependency screenings, accessing treatment and accessing other social and health services while reducing the use of crisis services by police, fire and ambulance services. For more information on this valuable service, call Erik Landaas at 360-786-5585 x16955#.
- Got extra stuff? Dr Bernie Brown, a Poulsbo physician, started Trinity Missions almost seven years ago provide free medical services to the poor in Mexico and Ecuador. He provides care, mostly to respiratory/asthma patients in these countries free of charge, approximately eight to ten times a year. If your agency has extra asthma medications (oral and nasal steroids) and nebulizers or any type of emergency care supplies such as old EKGs, ET tubes and IV needles, his group could really use the donation. Contact Dr Brown at 360-779-5672 or at berniejb1@msn.com to make a donation.

**NORTHWEST REGION
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES AND TRAUMA
CARE COUNCIL**

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Phone: 360-479-5631

Fax: 360-479-5772

Email: nwems@hurricane.net

We're On The Web!

www.nwrems.org

The Northwest Region Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Council is a non-profit umbrella organization which oversees EMS training, prevention activities, and program funding in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason Counties.

Their Mission is to promote and support a coordinated system for local Emergency Medical Services/Trauma Care Councils by:

- *Providing resources/funding*
- *Enhancing education/training*
- *Promoting data collection/analysis*
- *Facilitating communication*
- *Promoting standardization*
- *Promoting public education and prevention*

News from the NWR EMS Office

- The bracelets are here! We recently purchased 10,000 'Stay Safe, Stay Sober' bracelets through a grant from the Department of Health. Approximately 6,000 of these bracelets will be given to all of the high school seniors in our Region as a part of our annual anti-drunk driving project. The other 4,000 will be distributed throughout our Region during events and other activities. If your organization would like some of these bracelets to hand out, please contact April at the number above.
- We are now adding a Spanish language DUI Panel to our calendar. Currently the Region coordinates the Kitsap County youth, adult and military DUI Victim's Impact Panels which are held on a monthly basis. Due to demand, we anticipate holding a DUI Panel in Spanish on an every-other-month basis beginning in April. This Panel will be held at our Bremerton office building and will be open to all court mandated attendees as well as the general public.
- The Protocols are almost done. After months of diligent work by many people in our Region, the Regional Protocols are on their way to the printer. The Protocols have been thoroughly reviewed and updated and we anticipate they will be used for up to five years until our next major revision. The Protocols will be printed in an easy to use "flip book" style and will also be available in hyper-linked PDF format so you can download them to your compute or PDA.
- We still have lots of bicycle helmets available. If you have an upcoming spring event, please reserve your helmets early by calling the number above.
- Sign up today! We have lots of provider courses available throughout our Region. Everything from EMT courses to ACLS, PALS, SEI courses and OTEP schedules are listed on our website at www.nwrems.org under "Training Calendar".