



Emergency Medical Services Council

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EMS Medical Directors Subcommittee

Aug. 28, 2026, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Online meeting:

[Emergency medical services regulation |
Hennepin County](#)

Draft Summary

Present	Absent
1. Peter Tanghe, MD, Chair (North Memorial Health Ambulance) 2. Nick Simpson, MD (Hennepin EMS) 3. Charlie Lick, MD (Allina Health EMS)	1. Amber Ties, MD (Ridgeview Ambulance Service) 2. Paul Nystrom, MD (Edina Fire EMS)
Guests	Staff
	1. Kristin Mellstrom (Hennepin County)

1. **Today's Agenda and the Meeting Summary** from April 24, 2026 meeting minutes were approved with a quorum present at 9:30 a.m

2. **EMS Case Study Night sponsored by the EMS Council Medical Directors Committee**

- Date TBD, likely sometime in winter due to everyone's busy schedules this fall.

3. **Allina Health EMS Update**

Drs. Duren and Maleska are no longer EMS Medical Directors at Allina. Dr. Maleska moved to a position at Regions Hospital. Dr. Steven Souchtchenko is the current EMS Medical Director and Dr. Charlie Lick has stepped in to temporarily serve on this committee and the Council. Dr. Lick will be the primary contact for this group of EMS Medical Directors for now.

Kevin Miller has also left his Operations role for north metro Allina Health EMS; Jeff Czyson is filling that role until a replacement is hired. Matt Miron heads the southwest metro operations. Nominations for the open Allina EMS seats will be moved to the Oct. EMS

Council.

As previously reported in the news, Sutter Health of California acquired Allina Health a few months ago. Impact on EMS is TBD, but no current changes have resulted from the Sutter Health acquisition to date.

4. North Memorial Health EMS Update

The MN Attorney General approved the Sanford Health acquisition of North Memorial Health. This includes a ten-year oversight agreement that will keep North Memorial Health Hospital (Robbinsdale) as a Level I Trauma Center, additional investment into Maple Grove Hospital, and increased behavioral health resources. At present, North Memorial EMS will continue operations as usual; this acquisition will double the available air service and add fixed-wing responses.

5. Communications Policy Update

The 2016 version of the EMS Council Communications Policy was updated to combine separate policies for Contacting Medical Control, Contacting System EMS Medical Directors for consultation and/or scene response, Patient Information Reports and other operational procedures and requirements. Each of the separate policies were reviewed by this committee in the past year. The updated policy is attached at the end of the notes. The Operations Committee moved the updated policy to the EMS Council for approval on Oct. 1.

6. Protocols – The committee decided to renew a more formal comparison of agency protocols by choosing one or two protocols for each meeting. Now that the Hennepin County EMS Council doesn't have a single protocol book to review, discussions of any differences is infrequent. While the protocols among agencies are very similar, it would be useful to set aside time to discuss how differences in treatment or medications can affect the metro system.

- Suggested protocol to review for next meeting: Please bring your agency's **Traumatic Arrest, both penetrating and blunt, for adult and pediatric patients.**
- Possible discussion topics in the future:
 - Recommendation from some interventionalists to administer Brilinta pre-hospital when a STEMI patient will have a long transport time. Guidelines for "long transport time" are not clearly defined.
 - Encourage more uniformity around when the catheter lab should be activated for incoming STEMI patients with longer transport times.
 - Decisions regarding which patients are candidates for ECMO
 - Protocols regarding administration of blood in the field, especially related to training responders to avoid delays on scene to wait for blood before transporting.
 - Include updates about the MESB Blood Task Force that will begin to create metro-wide policies about requesting and tracking available blood,

coordination with blood centers, intercepts with EMS Supervisors and potentially with partner First Responder agencies in the future, and discussion about billing and payments between agencies.

- 7. ResQPOD** – Dr. Simpson shared that Hennepin EMS has discontinued use of the ResQPOD for ventilation timing and moved to the Zoll Real BVM instead. For pediatric patients, a timing light is being used. Many Fire Departments in Hennepin County have moved away from the ResQPUMP and use the LUCAS device now.

North Memorial Health Ambulance continues to use the ResQPOD; Dr. Tanghe noted that it would be useful to look at CARES data from HEMS to see if any trends are notable after discontinuing the ResQPOD. Dr. Simpson offered to bring HEMS CARES data to the next meeting.

- 8. Office of EMS** – Dr. Tanghe and Dr. Stevens are finalizing the agenda for the OEMS MD Advisory Council that will meet on Thursday morning of the MN EMSMD conference in Oct. A primary focus of this committee is to update state performance metrics that measure ambulance service quality.

- 9. Legislative and MAA** – Public comment period closed in June; rules changes will allow BLS IM administration of epinephrine and ondansetron. Additional information will be provided by Director Ferguson about new rules that will allow EMS Medical Directors more independence to specify which medications their agency's EMTs can administer and route.

- 10. NAEMSP** – Dr. Simpson serves on the MEDSS Task Force; it hasn't met recently so no updates.

- 11. Scene Responses** – HEMS described a response to severe MVC that demonstrated the value of having an EMS Medical Director on scene to make critical decisions about possible amputation and treatment pre-hospital. Trapped patient received blood, avoided amputation, was transported to a Level I Trauma center, survived, and is in a long recovery. Immediate decision-making on scene by the physician was critical to this response.

- 12.** Additional invites will include east side EMS Medical Directors and fellows or residents who work on/have expertise in Traumatic Arrests. HEMS Fellows, Drs. Hodapp and Goldstein will also be included as guests for this committee's meetings. If your agency has other physicians or EMS Fellows you'd like to be invited, please forward their email to Kristin.

- 13. Meeting Schedule:** Fourth Friday of the month at 9:30-10:30 am online. For a meeting invitation, please contact chd.ems@hennepin.us to confirm meeting date and time.

- 14.** Meeting ended at 10:24 a.m.

Attachment to meeting summary: Updated EMS Council Communications Policy