

PHECC Quality and Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

25/03/2014, PHECC Office, Naas 10:30

**Present:**

Shane Mooney (Chair)  
Ian Brennan  
Greg Lyons  
Martin O'Reilly  
Ronan Denning

**Apologies:**

Brigid Sinnott  
Rickey Tracey  
Anthony Corcoran  
John McShane

**In attendance:**

Jacqueline Egan  
Brian Power  
Barry O'Sullivan (Deputy Director)  
Deirdre Borland

**1. Chairs business:**

The Chair welcomed the group, apologies were noted and introductions were made.

**2. Meeting Report and Matters Arising**

The Chair clarified a point which was discussed at the last meeting in relation to the PHECC website providing the facility to check a practitioner's status on Register. This functionality is still in development and should be completed with the next stage of development of practitioner online registration.

The Chair also commented on the concern raised at the last meeting regarding the availability of placements for practitioners working within Private Ambulance Services when the new 3<sup>rd</sup> level model of paramedic training is in place. He confirmed that a service level agreement or similar paramedic student placement model will be in place with the service providers which will ensure that placements are available for all paramedic students taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> level paramedic course.

**Resolution:** The Quality and Safety Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 12/11/13.

**Proposer:** Martin O'Reilly    **Seconded:** Ian Brennan  
Carried without dissent

**2. Criteria for Registration:**

**2.1 Registration Process Update**

Jacqueline Egan gave an overview of the new re-registration process for Paramedics. This new process will facilitate online re-registration and online payment of fees which will lead to improved efficiency and convenience for registrants.

**2.2 Continuous Professional Competence Update**

Barry O'Sullivan informed the Committee that he is due to meet with the ambulance service trade union officials in the coming weeks to discuss the development and implementation of CPC. He asked

that each of the organisations represented seek the opinion of their colleagues and bring their feedback and ideas to the Committee's next meeting. The Chair also asked that PHECC correspond with each Approved Service Provider to seek their input to the advancement of this project.

### **3. Skills and knowledge to support best practice:**

#### **3.1 Community First Responders**

##### **3.1.1 Responder Scope of Practice**

Brian Power informed the Committee that there had been a number of queries to PHECC in relation to the scope of practice of registrants at EMT, P and AP level who are members of community responders groups. Brian Power called for the Committee to develop a policy in relation to this. Ian Brennan suggested that the national umbrella group for responder groups, CFR Ireland, apply for CPG approval. The Chair asked that the National Ambulance Service (NAS) be contacted to ascertain their position in relation to this matter. Barry O'Sullivan suggested that PHECC engage with CFR Ireland to ascertain their requirements, obligations, responsibilities and clarification on their link to the NAS control/dispatch system.

#### **3.2 Interfacility Transfer Standard**

##### **3.2.1 Crewing in Intermediate Care Vehicles (ICV's)**

Jacqueline Egan introduced a memo which was circulated from the NAS to staff indicating that non-EMT staff can crew ICV vehicles. Brian Power expressed a concern that personnel unprepared for working in emergency situations are being asked to carry out this type of work. The Chair confirmed that this situation has come about as a result of redeployment of staff due to NAS control centre closures. Greg Lyons indicated that NAS staff were informed that PHECC were fully aware of this. Brian Power indicated that this was not the case. Barry O'Sullivan asked that the Committee consider the following: i) escalating this matter to Council ii) inform NAS that this is contrary to their CPG approval and they immediately desist this practice and iii) PHECC will inform the State Claims Agency of this breach.

**Resolution:** The Committee request that the Deputy Director escalate this matter to Council, inform the NAS that this memo is unsound, is contrary to their CPG approval and request they immediately desist from this practice and also to advise the State Claims Agency accordingly of this breach.

**Proposer:** Ronan Denning

**Seconded:** Greg Lyons

Carried without dissent

#### **3.3 Licenced CPG Service Providers – Inspection Reports**

Jacqueline Egan introduced a report on the voluntary and auxiliary CPG Service Providers. Brian Power gave further details on each of the reports. He informed the Committee that as he is a member of the Order of Malta he was not involved in the inspection of that organisation. He stated that the primary issues across all organisations were those regarding security and vehicles.

The Deputy Director confirmed that the same standards will be applied to all licenced service providers (statutory, voluntary and auxiliary organisations) and there are no exemptions to the current PHECC Inter-facility Transfer Standard. Brian Power informed the Committee that it will be a condition of their re-approval that items highlighted in each report be rectified.

#### **4. Information standards leading to data collection and clinical audit:**

##### **4.1 Information management update**

###### **4.1.2 Date collection in NAS**

Jacqueline Egan gave a status update on the ePCR project. She also informed the Committee of a proposed project by the NAS which involves a partnership between the current PCR scanning company and a second company which will mine the PCR data resulting in the availability electronic data for use by the service. NAS plan to pilot the revised PCR, which will include optical character recognition (OCR) data entry boxes, later this year if revisions to the PCR are approved by Council. Whilst PHECC is disappointed that handover of the ePCR system to NAS did not occur over the period of the ePCR HSE north east region project it is encouraged that NAS is taking steps to achieving improved patient data systems. The Chair informed the Committee that this trial PCR project will lead to significant resource requirements and echoed the call for the implementation of an ePCR system.

###### **4.2.1 ePCR update**

Jacqueline Egan informed the Committee that the Dubai Ambulance Service implemented the PHECC CPGs and ePCR systems and referred to the ePCR proof of concept report contained in the meeting papers. The absence of pre-hospital clinical audit is an ongoing patient safety concern for PHECC and we maintain our position that the ideal solution for collection of pre-hospital data is a national ePCR information system. Ronan Denning asked that if there were any plans to develop an eACR? Jacqueline Egan indicated that currently ePCR is the priority PHECC but eACR may be considered for the future.

#### **5. AOB**

##### **5.1 EMS Gathering 2014**

The Chair informed the Committee that the second EMS Gathering will be held in Killarney in May. He informed the Committee that the agenda would be of benefit to all those involved in the provision of pre-hospital emergency care.

The Chair thanked all present for their contribution to the meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup> 2014



S. Wilson  
9/9/14