



Verde Valley Medical Center  
Northern Arizona Healthcare

## Prehospital Care Department

### UPDATES

#### 11/20/2023 New Patch Phone Verbiage

As of today, when RN/Para answer the Patch phone at VVMC it is now “ Y1100 .....Debbie speaking” The only time a physician’s name will be mentioned on the patch is if they have had input into Pre-Hospital care, namely:

1. Continue or cessation of resuscitation efforts
2. Refusals
3. Destination decisions i.e. SMC/FMC
4. Medication or treatment orders.

The reason behind this decision;

The verbiage of “ Dr.....standing by “ places our physicians in a compromising situation as their name’s are associated to patient’s they have no knowledge of or input into.

If you have any questions about this process, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Dr. Lotz, Troy or myself. Thank you, Debbie

#### 11/15/2023 New VVMC Prehospital Operational Manual is updated

See Protocol Tab

#### 11/01/2023 Dexamethazone

Kyler Lee, SFD, discovered while doing a refresher on the Pediatric Stridor (e.g., Croup) protocol, that we do not carry Dexamethasone on our drug boxes only Solumedrol. In consultation with Dr. Lotz, Dexamethasone will be added to the drug boxes, see his comments below;

*“The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends Dexamethasone for the treatment of croup. This is because of its relatively fast onset, but longer duration than other steroids (36-54 hours for decadron vs 12 hours for solumedrol). This means that it’s a onetime dose of steroids rather than needing a prescription. It is also easily administered as PO, IV or IM and the IV formulation can even be given orally (this is what we do in the hospital most of the time).*

*Oral prednisolone has been studied and is a second line therapy, but methylprednisolone (Solumerol) hasn't really been studied so it's hard to say the efficacy. IV solumedrol also requires an IV and the vast majority of these kids won't get one because it isn't needed.*

*I support expanding our drug box to include Dexamethasone, especially with cold and flu season here. If we were in a city with short transport times, I'd say it probably doesn't matter to add it as it takes 30 or so minutes to take effect. However, with our longer transport times, if given right away it would mean faster resolution of symptoms once in the ED and therefore less time in the ED. “*

Pharmacy will be providing 2 X 4mg per 1ml vials for each drug box.

Thank you

**10/26/2023 Weapons in the ER**

Good morning, Casey Rucker, NAH Security Director, is asking VVMC & Sedona Pre-Hospital Care agencies to help identify patients with weapons before transporting them to VVMC & SMC by asking/ stating the following: “VVMC & SMC are weapon free zones. Do you have any weapons on you?”

Asking a patient this question may have additional risks but it is something that EMS providers should be aware of and have as part of their agency safety plan. EMS providers should report any red flags to NAH security upon arrival at VVMC or staff at SMC.

Your assistance in this would be gratefully appreciated.

Thank you, Debbie

**10/17/2023 2024 PreHospital Care Meeting Dates**

9 – 11, in person and zoom:

January 9<sup>th</sup>

April 9<sup>th</sup>

July 9<sup>th</sup>

October 8<sup>th</sup>

**10/03/2023 Prehospital Care Meeting Minutes**

Minutes: Pre-Hospital Committee Meeting, October 3rd, 2023.

In Attendance: Debbie Verkyk, Troy Hoke, Bill Boler, Schelly Lindsey, Dan Elliot, Alex Lewis, Dr. Lotz, Ivan Anderson, Buzz Lechowski and Vince Martinez.

Vince: There are time stamp issues when EMS charts are been uploaded into Cerner. Vince has put in a “Help desk ticket” with ESO. Will proceed with phase 2 once issues resolved.

Reminded all of NAEMS meeting on November 3rd.

Dr Lotz: Asked that agencies remember to leave behind rhythm strips if the patient has received treatment for arrhythmias in the field.

When on line medical direction is given, please document the physician’s name in patients chart.

Troy:

1) Walking Sick/Unstable Patients= Try and limit having patients walk if they re appearing extremely sick or unstable.

2) SMR= Review the SMR protocol. If they do not need spinal restriction then document appropriately. We are looking at getting soft c-collars.

3) STR's= Please send a list of all completed STR training. Troy has created one and emailed it out. Feel free to use this or create your own. If you can email it once all the departments STR training has been completed. Then it will be put in your department folder for records to show the state of training completion.

4) WRAP Device- The Cottonwood Police and Sedona Police departments have purchased new restraining devices. They are called the WRAP. Please reach out and look at these devices before your providers have questions on scene. This device works very well and the need to chemically restrain patients have dropped drastically where they have been used.

Bill: VVFD has started the Narcan Leave behind program.

Ivan: Brought to everyone's attention that although Handtevy is built to the CAREMS guidelines, VVFD missed an IM fentanyl dose during review, this has since been corrected. A discussion was held about the high cost of Handtevy and how CWFD has not renewed, using CAREMSG app.

NEXT MEETING: Will be decided on for 2024 at a later date.

**07/07/2023** Prehospital Meeting for July is cancelled as no one had any agenda items.

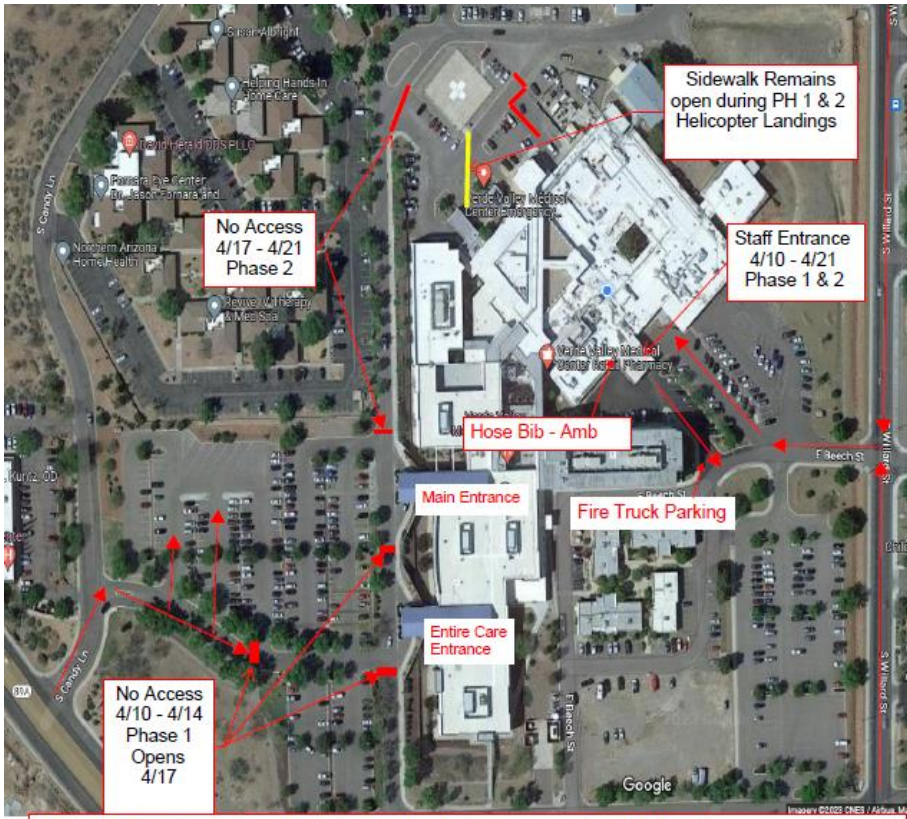
**04/04/2023** Prehospital Meeting Notes

### **Minutes: Pre-Hospital Committee Meeting, April 4th, 2023.**

In Attendance: Debbie Verkyk, Troy Hoke, Bill Boler, Dave Guth, Dan Elliot, Alex Lewis, Allen Muma, Vince Martinez, Jon Gable and Pat Ojeda

Guests: Scott Watson, Jack Jackson, Ronni Grayson, Larry Chase and Tate Stearley

- Most of the meeting taken up with discussion about Asphalt renewal. There will be a soft close starting Friday 4/7 of parking lots. Project to start @ 6am on 4/10 to finish on 4/21. All barricades will be removed and entrances open on Monday 4/24. EMS is to use staff entrance starting 4/10 @ 0600 till the morning of Monday 24<sup>th</sup>.



- Vince: ESO phase 2 was put on hold due to budgetary constraints. Will be budgeted for in the FY24 budget.
- Troy: Discussed that providers need to use the new base hospital communication format when patching. Please remind the providers of the changes that are in the Prehospital Operational Manual. If anyone has any questions, please follow up with Troy.

**Next meeting July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9a-11 via zoom or in person**

**03/01/2023 Prehospital Meeting Notes**

TXA has been added to Drug Box. See Dr. Lotz's lecture.

**02/28/2023 CAREMSG attestation**

VVMC Attestion Forms for CAREMSG, VVMC Operations Manual and ALS/BLS contract are due in VVMC Prehospital Care today.

**01/31/2023 Prehospital Meeting Notes**

**Minutes: Pre-Hospital Committee Meeting, January 31st, 2023.**

In Attendance: Debbie Verkyk, Troy Hoke, Bill Boler, Schelly Lindsey, Dan Elliot, Alex Lewis, Dr. Lotz, Ivan Anderson, and Allen Muma.

- **Vince:** Unable to attend however ESO phase 2 update is on hold for the moment till July 2023
- **Dr Lotz:**
  - 1) TXA has been added to CAREMS protocol. On Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9am, Dr Lotz will be doing an educational zoom meeting on TXA. This will be recorded, providers have till the 28<sup>th</sup> February to watch and sign an attestation form that they have done so. Going live date March 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Will have TXA in Pre-hospital office on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> for agencies to collect for drug boxes.
  - 2) Dr Lotz is still working on a plan to get Paramedics into OR for intubations.
- **Troy:**
  1. Annual renewal forms have been emailed to Prehospital coordinators (Protocol Attestation Form, ALS/BLS Base Hospital Contract and Review of Prehospital Operational Manual). Please have these signed once all members have reviewed.
  2. Please have all crew members go over and train on the new base hospital communication policy. If anyone has questions, please have them contact me.
  3. Allen to inform Pre-Hospital of the 2023 training needs for Jerome.
- **Bill:**
  - 1) Will from Guardian Air did an excellent class on Interfacility Transport medications. Most of the VVFD Paramedics have attended the class to prepare them should they need to assist SFD with transfers out of SMC.
  - 2) CPR instructor's refresher classes are going to be run in March, please let Bill know who is interested in attending
  - 3) There have been some updates to the Verde Valley EMS website. Bill is working with the company to get it up and running one more.
  - 4) Bill is going to be in and out the office over the next couple of weeks. His office line will connect with his cell but it takes a while.
  - 5) Out of Africa STB, snake bite treatment e.c.t training will be held on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> @ 16:00. Allen and the CCFD crews will assist. Bill will send out invite, Debbie has STB kits in office and looking into Antivenom administration at VVMC.
- **Ivan:** Had a question for Dr Lotz on the administration of Valium for severe muscle cramps. Dr Lotz advised:
  - Patch in and present your plan, dose and reasoning behind wanting to administer, thus enabling the ED physician to make an informed decision.

**NEXT MEETING: April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 09:00 – 11:00.**