

Proposal: Comprehensive Prehospital Physician Response, Quality Assurance and Improvement Program for the Genesee County Sheriff's Office Paramedic Division

Objective:

To integrate an ongoing comprehensive program of physician involvement in Genesee County via the Genesee County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) Paramedic Division.

Proposal:

Genesee County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are currently provided by a combination of private agencies, local fire departments, and the GCSO Paramedic Division. Given that a large percentage of all highest priority (tier 1) calls have a response by a member of the GCSO Paramedic Division, investing in their training and care delivery has the potential for significant positive impact on the citizens of Genesee County. We propose a comprehensive package of physician-lead quality assurance and improvement that includes the following features:

1. **Monthly training:** a monthly training session during roll call that includes both a group case review as well as an educational topic.
2. Physician involvement in the **Genesee County Medical Control Authority (GCMCA)** with monthly meetings
3. **Call review:** monthly review of referred cases by deputies and leadership
4. **On scene training:** at least 48 hours a month of having a physician respond to medical calls together with a deputy for direct training and medical oversight.
5. **Trainee instruction:** meetings and personalized training and review of new trainees as part of their field training and orientation phase.

Key Benefits:

1. **Ongoing continuity of training:** review of key topics with emphasis on complex and rare patient presentation
2. **Team-based case review:** modeled after morbidity and mortality conferences typically held at academic medical centers, regular review of cases will provide a forum for constructive review of challenging or complex cases with learning opportunities for all providers.
3. **Quality Improvement:** Perform reviews and targeted education of complex prehospital cases.
4. **Direct Training:** During on-scene training, the team-based approach would allow for direct training for all responding units as they work directly with an emergency physician. This builds upon the collaborative nature of the Sheriff Paramedic program with other EMS agencies and clinicians.
5. **Improved care for the population of Genesee County:** a significant focus on quality assurance and improvement for the department ensures the highest quality of patient care.
6. Opportunities for progressive and innovative delivery of prehospital care.

Implementation Plan:

We propose a one-year pilot phase with re-evaluation for continuation.

Metrics tracked include didactic hours, didactic quality survey responses, direct training hours, call reviews completed, personnel training, pre- and post-implementation evaluation, physician patient contacts and procedures performed.

Funding and Resources:

We are seeking funding from the EMS mileage to pay for this program.

EMS/Emergency Physician Effort: no direct compensation would be paid as the physicians are employees of the University of Michigan. Funding would go towards reducing emergency physician clinical time to allow for involvement in this program.

\$2,500 per one shift per month; \$30,000 for one shift per month for 12 months. Physician effort would total \$120,000 to compensate for 4 shifts of physician time divided amongst the activities discussed earlier. This cost also includes medical malpractice and liability coverage, workers compensation and other regulatory needs as outlined by the University.

Funding from the County to provide equipment including but not limited to radio, medical equipment, uniform costs.