

EMS State of the Science Gathering of Eagles XI February 21, 2009

How Electronic Patient Care Records Can Help Improve Quality?

Karl Sporer, MD

EMS Medical Director

San Francisco Fire Department

Electronic Patient Care Record

- It won't make your paramedics nicer.
- It won't make them look better.
- It won't wash your dishes or do your laundry.
- It might improve the medics documentation.
- It will give the Medical Director incredible insight into patient care and documentation.

Electronic Patient Care Record

- Implementation
 - So that your medics don't hate you
- Ongoing Support
 - So that your IT division doesn't hate you
- Analytic support
 - So that your regulatory agency doesn't hate you

Electronic Patient Care Record

- Implementation
- Think through all of the practical issues
 - Docking stations
 - Workflow Issues
 - Type of hardened laptops
 - Medic will find some way to break it
 - Appropriate policy- medics will try to avoid it

Electronic Patient Care Record

■ Ongoing Support

- IT backup
- Dedicated Paramedic with admin rights
 - Design Changes
 - Collate and Respond to Suggestions

Electronic Patient Care Record

■ Analytic Support

- Data does not equal wisdom
- Need someone who can generate reports
- Canned reports are not adequate
- PI Committee

Electronic Patient Care Record

■ QI Successes

- Endotracheal Intubation
- Combitube
- Pleural Decompression
- Cardioversion
- Defibrillation
- CPAP
- Transcutaneous Pacing

Electronic Patient Care Record

- End Tidal CO2 Waveform Monitoring

- Initial Compliance

- ET 50%

- Combitube 5%

- After 2 years of QI

- ET 85-90%

- Combitube 85%

Electronic Patient Care Record

- Other Successes
 - Aspirin in Chest Pain
 - 12 Lead in Chest Pain
 - CPAP compliance with protocol
 - Signature Compliance