

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

February 3, 2009 Meeting

Council members present:

Deborah Nadzam, Chair
Shawn Becker (USP), Secretary
Lee Rucker (AARP)
James Owen (APhA)
Ann Gaffey (ASHRM)
Bona Benjamin (ASHP)
Carol Holquist (FDA)
Sal Peritore (GPhA)
Frank Federico (IHI)
Nancy Kupka (The JC) via telephone
Maryann Alexander (NCSBN)
W. Ray Bullman (NCPIE)
Marjorie Shaw Phillips, Vice Chair USP Safe Medication Use Expert Committee

Organizations not represented:

AAHSA NABP
AHA NACDS
ANA NPSF
AMA
ASCP

Alternates attending as representatives of their organizations:

Michael Gaunt (ISMP)
Tara Modisett (NASPA)
Rosemary Cook (PhRMA)
Virginia Torrise (VA)

Alternates attending with their delegates:

Colleen Brennan (USP)

Presenters: Cheri Lattimer, National Transitions of Care Coalition

Observers:

James Burris, America Geriatrics Society
Diane Cousins, (Consultant)
Jane Kelly-Cummings, Society of Hospital Medicine
Donald E. Martin, Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation
Victoria Tkacz (APhA)
Frank Fortier (AAPA)
Ricardo Nannini (DoD)

USP Attendees:

Jacqueline Starkes, Compendial Project Manager

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

Rick Schnatz, Compounding Pharmacy Expert Committee

The Chair welcomed Council members, alternates, and guests and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the October meeting summary. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the agenda for this February meeting.

Dr. Roger Williams, Executive Vice President and CEO of the USP was invited to address the Council. Dr. Williams congratulated the Council for fourteen years of hard work and dedication. He also expressed the continued support of the Council as its secretariat.

Dr. Williams addressed the transitioning of USP away from the reporting programs into the capable hands of ISMP and Quantros. USP as a standard setting organization will be focusing on its core, documentary and reference standards. The Safe Medicine Use Expert Committee will conclude at the end of this cycle but will continue its important work products until the end of the current cycle in 2010. In the 2010 – 2015 USP Cycle this Committee's work will transition to Nomenclature, Safety and Labeling Expert Committee.

Secretary's Report – *Shawn Becker*

- Calling tree and roster were circulated for updating
- The Council received a request from Dr. Miriam Klein to be a guest speaker at the next Council meeting. Dr. Klein has created a peel away label that could be placed on a syringe or a second container. She has had success with the peel away labels in Canada, Europe and Germany. It is important to note that the Council does not endorse products but it was felt that this safety effort should be heard by the Council. Several members have heard Dr. Klein's presentation and endorsed her request. It was unanimously agreed upon to invite her Dr. Klein to present at our next meeting.

Action Item: The Secretary will invite Dr. Klein to attend the June 9, 2009 meeting to discuss the peel away label concept.

- An appeal was made to member organizations to appoint an alternate delegate as a way of maintaining a comprehensive perspective on Council decisions and work products. The ANA will appoint an alternate by the next meeting. Others were also encouraged to appoint alternates where none exist. Members were reminded that they have the option of teleconferencing into meetings if no delegate or alternate can be on site.
- Web Analytics for calendar year 2008 were presented and reviewed by the Council members. The NCC MERP web site received more than 303,820 hits.
- In its quest to explore the need for additional physician organizations to balance the NCC MERP membership, the Council members reached out to various organizations. The secretary is happy to report that three organizations are attending today's meeting. With the participation of additional

organizations, the possibility of changing the rules by eliminating the number imposed was discussed. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to eliminate the numbers associated with the Category of Membership. Individual membership description will be altered to eliminate any confusion over its purpose and function on the Council. It was also suggested that the secretary, Chair and Vice Chair review all applications and determine if appropriate qualifications for membership apply before bringing before the entire Council for a vote.

- It was suggested that the Council apply for the ISMP Cheers Award this year. This suggestion received unanimous approval.

Action Item: The Secretary and Vice Chair will review the application and complete once it is available on ISMP web site

Membership – Shawn Becker and Deborah Nadzam

A letter was received from Crystal Lennartz of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) requesting withdraw from the Council. Ms. Lennartz is leaving the organization and her position will not be filled. Financial constraints require NACDS to once again resign its membership. This resignation was accepted by the Council.

Application for membership renewal was received from the following organization:
National Patient Safety Foundation

The delegate from NPSF was not present at this meeting and NPSF has not been represented at the past three meetings. It was suggested and unanimously agreed upon by the Council that the NPSF should attend the June 9, 2009 meeting and present their intention to seek renewal of membership and plan for participating/contributing to the work of the Council and increasing attendance.

Applications upcoming for renewal in June 2009

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
AAHSA also has attendance violation so it may be necessary to have this organization present at the next meeting.

Action Item: The Secretary will follow-up with invitations to the NPSF for presentations at the next meeting and extend an invitation for renewal and presentation of AAHSA.

Requests for membership were received from the following organizations:

- Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF)
- Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM)
- American Geriatrics Society (AGS)
- Diane Cousins (nominated by Joe Cranston of AMA)

APSF was founded in 1985, with ASA, but is not a part of ASA. Its purpose is to assure that no patient shall be harmed by the effects of anesthesia. The focus is on research,

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

education, patient safety programs and campaigns, through national and international exchange of information and ideas.

Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) is a physician organization whose primary professional focus is the general medical care of hospitalized patients. SHM is committed to promoting excellence in the practice of hospital medicine through education, advocacy and research.

American Geriatrics Society (AGS) is dedicated to improving the health, independence and quality of life of all older people. They have a successful history of creating educational programming that enables physicians to update their knowledge and improve patient care. AGS promotes high quality, comprehensive and accessible care. The Society is a leading voice for older adults who often have multiple chronic illnesses requiring comprehensive care and other special services to maximize quality of life.

Ms. Cousins has served on the Council since its founding in 1995. She has devoted more than 27 years advocating for safe medication use and continues to bring needed issues to the forefront of patient safety.

One additional request for individual membership was discussed. The individual represents a pharmaceutical manufacturer already represented by PhRMA. It appears that this individual does not realize that according to our rules an individual member must be submitted by a member of the Council and receive unanimous acceptance. This individual does not meet the membership qualifications of an organization nor has she been recommended by a member of the Council. It was determined that in the future if requests are received that do not meet with the rules and procedures of the Council the Secretary will send written notification to that effect and not bring before the Council for any type of discussion or vote.

Action Item: The secretary will contact the individual in question informing her that she does not meet the requirements as stated on the NCC MERP web site for individual membership and that PhRMA represents its membership on the NCC-MERP. In addition, Rosemary Cook of PhRMA has volunteered to serve as a resource for this individual.

The Council has extended membership to the following organizations:

Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF)
Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM)
American Geriatrics Society (AGS)

and to the following individual:

Diane Cousins, R.Ph.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept APSF, SHM, AGS, and Ms. Cousins as members for two-year terms.

Action Item: The Chair will send an acknowledgement and welcome to the new members of the Council.

Lunchtime Presentation: The National Transitions of Care Coalition (NTOCC) – Cheri Lattimer

Transitional care is the movement of patients from one health care practitioner or setting to another as their condition and needs change. Transition issues dramatically affect patients and their caregivers. It happens at various levels, ER, ICU, and In-Patient. Removing barriers in communication is vital in order to eliminate medication errors. CMSA (*Case Management Society of American*) envisions case managers as pioneers of health care change: nursing case managers, disease managers, health care coaches, social workers, pharmacists, physicians and others who are key initiators of and participants in the health care as patient care managers. This group represents over 200,000 health care professionals, 11,000 employers and 30,000,000 consumers throughout the United States. Some of the tools NTOCC created are Medication Reconciliation Elements, Transition of Care Lists, How to use Medicine list, My Medicine list, Taking Care of My Health Care list, and Taking Care of My Medicine list. All of these items are available and downloadable on NTOCC's website (www.NTOCC.org). NTOCC's goal is to raise awareness for the consumer, health care professional, policy makers, and media. Cheri Lattimer was thanked by the Chair and the delegates for an excellent presentation.

Pediatric Medication Safety – Deborah Nadzam and Marjorie Phillips

A draft document summarizing recommendations for Pediatric Medication Safety was presented for review by Deborah Nadzam and Marjorie Phillips, which included limited text and links to published recommendations from a number of organizations. Please review the list, if things are missing forward the information or your thoughts to Marjorie A. Shaw Phillips or Deborah Nadzam. As part of the discussion, it was noted that NCC MERP web site currently has a page labeled "Consumer Information for Safe Medication Use" that contains links to the member organizations' home pages and other resources, such as AHRQ. This resource would be of more value to individuals visiting the web page if the link was directed to the organizations medication safety resource page(s) rather than a home page.

Action Item: An updated Pediatric Medication Safety Recommendations list will be sent by e-mail to the membership prior to our June 2009 meeting. Members will also be requested to send the appropriate link for <http://www.nccmerp.org/consumerInfo.html> to the secretary for inclusion on website.

Medication Errors Rates vs. Medication Error Reporting Rates- Frank Federico

According to Mr. Federico, current measures of reporting medication error rates are not reliable, hospitals use measures that may not fully inform leaders as to the safety of the organization. Patients do not know how to judge the medication safety of a hospital and hospitals struggle to find meaningful information to help direct Quality Improvement efforts.

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

Mr. Federico informed the group that Donabedian suggested that quality be measured at Structure -> Process ->Outcome. As safety is a dimension of quality, why not measure it the same way?

The questions posed by Mr. Federico were:

- Do you agree with this approach?
- What is good about it?
- What are its shortcomings?
- Do you have examples of someone who may be using this approach?
- Do you know someone who is willing to test this approach with us?

It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to discuss whether the Council should initiate action for development of a measurement approach and report at the next meeting.

Action Item: A subcommittee was formed with the following members to discuss this topic further: Frank Federico, Chair, Diane Cousins, Marjorie Phillips, Jane Kelly-Cummings, Donald Martin, James Owens, Virginia Torrise, Bona Benjamin and Matt Grissinger. A teleconference will be scheduled to define a work product.

Bar Coding – Bona Benjamin

The Council was presented with a list of sample bar coding survey questions for review. The Council suggested that we target key areas and specify the demographics items. The goal would be to include these survey items as part of a future ASHP Hospital survey as a way of identifying barriers to implementation of bar code verification as a safety step.

Action Item: The Council will provide feedback and suggestion for additional questions to Bona Benjamin prior to our next meeting.

Nominations

The Chair and Vice Chair nominations will be requested and ballots prepared prior to the June meeting.

Dr. Nadzam thanked the membership for a productive meeting. The suggested June 16, 2009 date for the next meeting appeared to conflict with several members schedules so June 9, 2009 was selected as the next meeting date. Ms. Becker will check the availability of this date with USP meetings staff and confirm with the members. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.