



NCC MERP Meeting
March 28, 2018
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
WebEx

Attendees:

Frank Federico (IHI), Chair; Shawn Becker (USP), Secretariat; Leigh Purvis (AARP); James Burris (AGS); Diane Cousins (AHRQ); Amy Cadwallader (AMA); Sharon Morgan (ANA); Ryan Burke (APhA); Joan Enstam Baird (ASCP); Deborah Pasko (ASHP); Rita Brueckner (Department of Veterans Affairs); Todd Bridges (FDA); Matthew Grissinger (ISMP); Tara Modisett (NASPA); Elizabeth Scotti Russell (NABP); Deborah Davidson (NCPIE); Rita Munley Gallagher; Chrissie Blackburn

USP Observers: Abbey Ammerman; Donna Bohannon

Opening, Procedural, and Administrative Matters

Mr. Frank Federico called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everybody to the call. Ms. Ammerman called roll and acknowledged a quorum. The summary of the previous meeting was reviewed and approved unanimously. Mr. Federico reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked for approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Mr. Federico thanked the council members for all of their efforts over the course of the past few years. He recognized the continued need for the council to be visible and active in this space. He noted that the council nominated and voted on new leadership. As of this meeting the new chair will be Matt Grissinger (ISMP) and the vice chair will be Deb Pasko (ASHP).

Secretariat's Report

Ms. Becker recognized the leadership of Mr. Federico and Dr. Ramalingam and welcomed the new chair and vice chair to their roles. She noted that a request for membership was received from The American College of Clinical Pharmacology (ACCP). Dr. James Burris noted that he served on their board, but was attending this meeting as a representative of AGS. He explained their mission and noted that they shared the vision of NCC MERP. Ms. Becker moved to approve the membership request. The motion passed; Dr. Burris abstained.

Ms. Becker explained that she received a few requests for the use of our algorithm.

- University of Minnesota
- Rush University
- McGraw Hill

A council member asked whether there are analytics on how many people download the algorithm. Ms. Becker will provide those statistics at the next meeting.

Ms. Bohannon noted that the Opioids Resource page was now live on the NCC MERP website. She asked that members review and send any new/updated links to her as they become available.

Cycle and Methodology for Reviewing NCC MERP Recommendations and Statements

It was suggested that the Council agree to make statement review part of the standard work. The Council discussed selecting 2-3 statements per quarter and assigning an owner of the statement. Mr. Federico agreed to write up a formal process to vet through the Advisory Council then the full Council for approval.

Action Item: The notes from the meeting will be reviewed and the advisory committee will propose a revision process to the full council for approval.

Statement Review and Approval

It was noted that two statements were distributed to the Council for review in advance of the meeting: Reducing Polypharmacy and Recommendations for Patient Weights and Documenting Metric Weights to Ensure Accurate Medication Dosing.

Polypharmacy: It was noted that Dr. Feroli revised the statement based on the compiled edits from council members. The council reviewed the statement and discussed the concept of “preventable harm.” It was ultimately agreed that the use of “preventable” should be removed.

Patient Weights: Mr. Grissenger noted that the statement reinforced the use of metric units and encouraged that patients actually be weighed. It was noted that this is especially important in certain populations like NICU/pediatrics.

A council member noted that their organization would need a chance to review and vet statements prior to being able to vote to approve or not. It was suggested that the statements be revised and then final versions circulated so those internal processes could take place.

Action Item: The statements will be finalized and distributed to the full council for review. The council will vote on the statements no later than the next meeting.

Drug Shortages

Ms. Pasko noted that this summer and fall saw a huge uptick in shortages, especially after Hurricane Maria. We are now seeing shortages of opioids and it has become very difficult to ask for more given the current crisis. She noted that FDA has been a huge partner in identifying these shortages and working with them to address the situation.

A council member noted that this is also a huge problem beyond acute care settings. Many small retail pharmacies and prescribers don't necessarily know about backups for products that



are on shortage. It was suggested that more data from industry would be helpful in identifying what/where products are produced..

Council members discussed where they could be most impactful. It was agreed that continued awareness of the problem is needed and it was agreed that as an initial step, a policy statement could be impactful.

Action Item: Ms. Sharon Morgan agreed to write a first draft for council members to review.

NCC MERP Taxonomy

It was noted that the workgroup has held a few calls and is considering what will be most helpful moving forward. The workgroup is discussing whether the existing taxonomy is relevant in newer databases and what might be most useful going forward. They will report back at the next meeting.

Closing

It was noted that a poll will be sent out to schedule meetings for 2018. The chair thanked Council members and adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.