NAME Past Presidents Committee Project:
ME/Coroner Office and Trauma Center Collaboration

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Chair
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Past Presidents Committee

Past Presidents Committee project for 2018
• Multiple projects by this committee since it was established in 1980s.
  Including:
  - History Project on NAME and NAME Foundation: collected memoirs, history of ME offices, and system description.
  - Published (digital edition) in the Golden Anniversary 2016.
  In 2017, the committee recognized that we as NAME members can make a major contribution to the trauma system in the United States, and so conducted a baseline survey.

Baseline where are we in collaboration
• Survey specifically requested of the Medical Examiner or coroner’s office where a trauma center is registered.
• There are about 500 trauma centers (Level I and II). Asked how many ME or coroner’s office is aware of existing trauma center in their jurisdiction.
• Mostly provide autopsy reports; Request for autopsy sent if asked.
• A few ME office participate in their M&M conference.
• Majority does not have collaborative research or publication together.
• So far, very little effort is made to work with each other. Successful collaborating project requires regular contact. Mutually willing collaboration is required.
Survey’s Objective:

- Determine the current status of the collaboration between the Medical Examiner’s office and Trauma Centers.

Target audience:

- Survey specifically sent to Medical Examiner or Coroner’s office where trauma center is registered.
- There are about 500 trauma centers (Level I and II).

Survey Responses

- IDENTIFIED (& complete) 59 = 72%
- UNIDENTIFIED (incomplete) 23 = 28%

Do you regularly collaborate or help with the trauma center in your area?

- Skipped 8= 13%
- NO 14= 24%
- YES 37= 63%
What more do you do than just send autopsy reports to the trauma center?

Nothing else: 31 = 53%
Do: 28 = 47%

Would you be more likely to share preliminary injury information from the autopsy if they could be transmitted electronically, such as with a simple questionnaire?

YES 16= 38%
NO 18 = 43%
SKIPPED 7 = 17%

On cases under criminal investigation, do you or would you share the autopsy report with the trauma center prior to conclusion of the investigation and/or trial?

Yes 15= 36%
No 16= 38%
Not currently, but would if asked 4= 9%
Do you collaborate in research with the trauma center?

- YES: 14 (24%)
- NO: 37 (63%)
- Skipped: 8 (13%)

Do you invite trauma surgeons to give educational talks to your staff?

- YES: 5 (8%)
- NO: 46 (78%)
- Skipped: 8 (14%)

Do you charge the trauma center for autopsy reports?

- YES: 2 (4%)
- NO: 48 (81%)
- Skipped: 8 (15%)
What does the trauma center do for you?

- **Skipped**: 22% (37%)
- **Nothing**: 15% (26%)
- **1 or more services**:...

Baseline of where we are in collaboration

- Survey showed how many ME or Coroner’s offices are aware of existing trauma centers in their jurisdiction.
- Mostly provide autopsy reports, request for autopsy sent if asked.
- A few ME offices participate in their M&M conferences.

Baseline Results

- Majority does not have collaborative research or publication together.
- LA County, San Diego County and Harris County, TX
- So far, very little effort is made to work with medical examiner and trauma center. A successful collaborative project requires regular contact. Mutual willing collaboration is required.