



Washington Update

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February 2015

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For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/>

1. NASEMSO Announces Release of EMS Domestic Preparedness Strategy

NASEMSO has released the [Emergency Medical Services Domestic Preparedness Improvement Strategy](#), consisting of goals, strategies, tasks, and activities to mitigate the ten most significant gaps in EMS preparedness and response. These goals, strategies, tasks and activities were structured to provide specific guidance and assign responsibilities to EMS organizations at the federal, national, state, tribal, and local levels. In an effort to bring solutions to published EMS domestic preparedness gaps, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Health Affairs charged NASEMSO with leading a process to analyze and summarize specific published EMS preparedness reports and document implementable solutions to the identified gaps. NASEMSO seated an EMS Domestic Preparedness Strategy Group consisting of representatives of thirteen EMS stakeholder organizations, representing EMS at the federal, national, state, tribal, and local levels. Represented constituencies included state EMS officials, EMS physicians, emergency managers, 911 communication center leaders, private- sector ambulance companies, fire chiefs, local EMS managers, and federal representatives from the departments and various programs that have EMS leadership responsibilities. The group identified and prioritized the most significant gaps in EMS domestic preparedness. The strategy group also identified general solutions to each of the ten most important gap areas.



2. NASEMSO EMS Specialty Certification Strategy Now Available

NASEMSO is pleased to announce “A National Strategy for EMS Specialty Certification” is now available on its web site. The strategy proposes to bring multiple stakeholders to the table to provide meaningful input to states and provide greater consistency in the approach to EMS specialty recognition in order to allow practitioners to provide services to the full extent of their current knowledge, training, experience, and skills. Over the next several months, NASEMSO will be conducting surveys of its members, national EMS organizations, and individual practitioners to evaluate this approach. An informational webinar is planned for February 23, 2015. For more information, go to <http://www.nasemso.org/Projects/EMSEducation/EMS-Specialty-Certification.asp>.

3. NASEMSO and NOSORH Join Forces to Publish State Compendium on EMS Leadership Education

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) believe that strong leadership is critical to the future of rural EMS. Our organizations are interested in state approaches to enhancing EMS agency leadership. State EMS Offices, with assistance from their respective Offices of Rural Health, completed an assessment regarding EMS agency leadership education. A copy of the assessment can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) to view the Compendium.

4. SAVE THE DATE: CDC Outreach Call on EVD

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates an outreach call with states and other stakeholders on Monday, February 9 from 3:30-5 EST. The purpose will be to briefly talk about the EMS guidance

and algorithm, provide brief updates from other federal agencies on Ebola-related activities, and then leave the majority of time to hear from the stakeholders on several topics, such as challenges to implementing guidance, coordination, and lessons learned. Call in information will be disseminated to NASEMSO members when received. State EMS offices are encouraged to participate.

In related news, CDC has launched a new webpage for [U.S. Healthcare Workers and Settings](#). This new section of the Ebola website includes information for various healthcare locations (e.g., EMS, ER, hospital) and topics (e.g., PPE, cleaning, and disinfection) and displays them in an easy-to-navigate format.

5. NASEMSO Coordinates EMS Representation to Disaster Focus Groups

The University of Utah is seeking participants for several stakeholder sessions to identify ways to improve the collaboration between the health care system, public health, EMS, and emergency management. The study entitled, “Making Disasters Less Disastrous” is in the process of gathering information from those who work in these systems at the State and local levels. Six focus group sessions are planned across the country for the project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to inform strategies for overcoming barriers and improving community resilience and response. NASEMSO has notified the state EMS directors in the proposed regions (CA, UT, GA, NY, IL, and OK) of the opportunity. The study coordinator can be contacted at (801)-581-3245 for more information.

6. NASEMSO Assists DHS Release of Updated 2014 National Emergency Communications Plan

The updated 2014 National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) has been released by National Protection and Programs Directorate’s (NPPD) Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) and Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) with participation and input from NASEMSO President Paul Patrick and Program Manager Kevin McGinnis. This is the first update to the NECP since the original publication in 2008. The 2014 NECP provides information and guidance to those that plan, coordinate, invest in, manage, and use emergency communications systems. To help stakeholders prepare for the rapidly evolving emergency communications landscape, the NECP emphasizes the need to enhance and update the policies, governance structures, plans, and protocols that enable responders to communicate and share information under all circumstances. As a stakeholder-driven plan, the NECP aims to maximize the use of all communications capabilities available to emergency responders—voice, video, and data—and to ensure the security of data and information exchange. Implementation of the NECP is a shared responsibility. Over the next several months, OEC will collaborate with its stakeholders across all levels of government and the private sector to assist in identifying NECP implementation activities aimed at ensuring emergency responders across the country can communicate effectively under all circumstances. [For more information...](#)

7. Free Webinar on Feb 5—“When Public Health Goes to Court: Judicial Structure and Functions”

The judicial system plays an important role in advancing public health goals, and it is critical that public health practitioners, legal counsel, and other partners understand how the court system works and how courts are involved in public health matters. CDC’s Public Health Law Program and the Network for Public Health Law is hosting a free webinar on February 5, 2015 at 1 PM EST. This webinar looks at the structure and essential functions of the state and federal court systems, including administrative courts; explores the Tribal court system; and examines the role of court watch programs in addressing public health issues. The webinar is first in a three-part series focused on the judiciary and public health. Upcoming webinars in the series include Public Health in the Courts, and the Court and Public Health Emergencies. [For more information...](#)

8. AHRQ Grants Policy Notices

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has issued two recent memorandums that may apply to awardees that coordinate health activities with state agencies. The notices should be self-explanatory.

- [Reminder to AHRQ Grantees that FY2010 Funds will Expire on September 30, 2015.](#)
- [Salary Limitation on FY 2015 AHRQ Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts.](#)

9. Safe States Annual Report on Injury Prevention Programs Now Available

The Safe States Alliance has released its *State of the States: 2013 Report*. Now in its fifth iteration, the 2013 report "continues to serve as the only national assessment of capacity among state public health injury and violence prevention programs. These critical programs reduce injuries and decrease the financial burden of injuries in both states and nationally." [For more information...](#)

10. CDC Provides Listing of State Laws on Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented epidemic of prescription drug overdose deaths. The primary responsibility to regulate and enforce prescription drug practices falls to the states. State laws are often used to prevent various injuries, with demonstrated benefits, yet little information exists about the effectiveness of state statutes or regulations designed to prevent prescription drug abuse and diversion. In partnership with CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the Public Health Law Program (PHLP) has created several resources summarizing some of the legal strategies states have used to address prescription drug misuse, abuse, and overdose including physical examination requirements, doctor shopping laws, tamper-resistant prescription form requirements, state prescription drug identification laws, pain management clinic regulation, state laws related to prescription drug overdose emergencies, as well as an interactive website on state prescription drug laws. [For more information....](#)

11. EVD Preparedness Funding Now Available

Public Health Emergency Planning (PHEP) Ebola Planning and Response Activities supplemental funding is available from the CDC in support of accelerated Ebola public health preparedness planning and response in the 62 PHEP jurisdictions. Go to www.grants.gov and search CDC-RFA-TP12-12010302SUPP15. The deadline is February 20.

12. CDC Releases Public Health Preparedness Report

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released its seventh preparedness report [2015 National Snapshot of Public Health Preparedness](#). This 2015 annual snapshot of public health preparedness demonstrates how federal investments enhance the nation's ability to respond to public health threats and emergencies in the framework of CDC's three priorities that are:

- Improving health security at home and around the world
- Better preventing the leading causes of illness, injury, disability, and death
- Strengthening public health through collaboration with healthcare

This snapshot also includes Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) awardee fact sheets that present available data to display trends and document progress related to public health laboratory testing and emergency operations coordination. Fact sheets also highlight PHEP capability-specific investments, administrative preparedness, Technical Assistance Review scores, and CDC resources that supported state, local, and insular areas' preparedness activities. [The complete report and individual sections of the report are available for downloading](#) as separate pdf files.

13. NHTSA OEMS to Host Next EMS Focus Webinar at Noon EST on February 19

The next webinar in the free EMS FOCUS series hosted by NHTSA’s Office of EMS (OEMS), will feature discussion about why the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) effort to build a public safety broadband network is important to EMS systems across the nation. FirstNet board member Kevin McGinnis is a nationally recognized advocate for broadband communications within the emergency medical services (EMS) community. Together, McGinnis and Amanda Hilliard, director of outreach for FirstNet, will discuss how the development of a public safety broadband network will help EMS systems provide better patient care through expected benefits such as accessing and sharing patient information and real-time monitoring of vitals. They will also address how – and why – EMS should be involved in the planning and implementation of the network development. Attendees will be encouraged to submit questions during any point and the webinar and Q&A will last approximately one hour.

[Register here.](#)

14. FCC Concludes AWS-3 Auction; Winning Bidders Announced

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently concluded its most successful spectrum auction in history, known as the “AWS-3” auction, making 65 MHz of spectrum available for wireless services. Importantly, and pursuant to the same legislation that will lead to the deployment of the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network, the auction proceeds will fund several very important public safety initiatives:

- \$7 billion to fund the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network;
- \$300 million to conduct research and assist with the development of standards, technologies, and applications to advance wireless public safety communications; and
- \$115 million for 9-1-1, E9-1-1, and Next Generation 9-1-1 implementation.

[For more information...](#)

15. FCC Adopts Rules to Help Better Locate Wireless 911 Callers

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted new rules to help emergency responders better locate wireless callers to 911. These updates to the Commission’s Enhanced 911 (E911) rules respond to Americans’ increasing use of wireless phones to call 911, especially from indoors where traditional 911 location technologies often do not work effectively or at all. The new rules establish clear and measurable timelines for wireless providers to meet indoor location accuracy benchmarks, both for horizontal and vertical location information. The Commission noted that no single technological approach will solve the challenge of indoor location, and no solution can be implemented overnight. The new requirements will enable wireless providers to choose the most effective solutions and allow sufficient time for development of applicable standards, establishment of testing mechanisms, and deployment of new location technology. Eight days before the recent hearing, all four nationwide wireless carriers submitted a joint filing to the FCC that outlines changes to their previous proposal on location accuracy for indoor 911 calls, including new performance metrics, greater focus on the vertical Z-axis coordinate and a willingness to work on privacy issues associated with a proposed new database of Wi-Fi and Bluetooth beacon infrastructure. [For more information...](#)

16. FCC to Vote on Proposal to Reinstate Net Neutrality

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Tom Wheeler recently announced the FCC will vote on a proposal to reinstate Net neutrality rules at an open commission meeting February 26, 2015, an action that would reclassify broadband providers as a telecommunications service (i.e. Title II utility) and could prevent telecom companies from monitoring and controlling data sent via their networks. Interested parties will be available to watch a live webcast of the meeting at FCC.gov/Live. The new proposal is expected to be circulated among the Commissioners later this week. [For more information...](#)

17. HHS Proposes Path to Improve Health Technology and Transform Care

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has released *Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap Version 1.0*. The draft Roadmap is a proposal to deliver better care and result in healthier people through the safe and secure exchange and use of electronic health information. Designed in concert with the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020, the draft Roadmap is based on a core set of building blocks that are needed to achieve interoperability:

- Core technical standards and functions;
- Certification to support adoption and optimization of health IT products and services;
- Privacy and security protections for health information;
- Supportive business, clinical, cultural, and regulatory environments; and
- Rules of engagement and governance.

The draft Roadmap and Standards Advisory are available for viewing at www.healthit.gov/interoperability. The public comment period for the draft Roadmap closes April 3, 2015. The public comment period for the Standards Advisory closes May 1, 2015.

18. CMS to Modify Requirements for Meaningful Use

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the intent to engage in rulemaking to update the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs beginning in 2015. These intended changes would help to reduce the reporting burden on providers, while supporting the long-term goals of the program. The new rule, expected this spring, would be intended to be responsive to provider concerns about software implementation, information exchange readiness, and other related concerns in 2015. It would also be intended to propose changes reflective of developments in the industry and progress toward program goals achieved since the program began in 2011. Advocates hope that this rulemaking opportunity will provide the opportunity to include EMS data systems into the bigger healthIT process that includes hospitals. [For more information...](#)

19. FEMA Seeks Applicants for National Advisory Council

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeks experienced individuals who are interested in serving on the National Advisory Council (NAC) to apply. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. ET on Monday, February 16, 2015. The NAC is a federal advisory committee established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. The NAC advises the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management frameworks, strategies, and plans while incorporating the whole community's input through appointed NAC members. For more information, visit <http://www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council>.

20. National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHSPI) Call for Measures

The Program Management Office for the National Health Security Preparedness Index is soliciting recommendations for new measures to be incorporated into future versions of the Index. They are inviting recommendations "from all stakeholders having scientific and/or operational knowledge about strategies for reducing the impact of large-scale hazards, disasters, and emergencies on human health and wellbeing (as well as) recommendations about existing Index measures to be modified or eliminated. The deadline is February 15th. [For more information...](#)

21. New Research Demonstrates Need for Careful Selection of Responders for Disasters

Implementing a framework, such as the [Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance \(ERHMS\)](#) system, can protect volunteers from work-related injuries and illnesses through systematic training and monitoring before, during, and after an emergency. Prior to a deployment, responders are placed on a roster, their credentials are verified, health screenings are performed, and health and safety trainings are provided. During a deployment, health and exposure monitoring are conducted, and following a deployment, responder health and function are tracked and after-action assessments are completed. A new article just published in Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) studies illnesses and injuries of American Red Cross responders between 2008 and 2012, demonstrating the need for careful selection of responders for deployment to disasters. [For more information...](#)

22. Offers New EVD Guidance for Law Enforcement Professionals

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has released a Fact Sheet on Ebola Information for Law Enforcement Professionals in the US. It explains the risk of exposure and ways law enforcement personnel can protect themselves. Please disseminate this to your law enforcement and other emergency services contacts as appropriate. The document is unclassified and there are no caveats restricting dissemination. [For more information...](#)

23. EMI Offers Virtual Tabletop Exercise on Active Shooter Event

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has provided additional dates to its active shooter event Virtual Tabletop Exercises (VTTX). This VTTX will focus on an active shooter event taking place in your community, using historical events and recovery actions. The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures. This VTTX differs from other Tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology (not web based), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise. [For more information...](#)

24. CDC Issues HAN Advisory on Measles Outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State Health Departments are investigating a multi-state outbreak of measles associated with travel to Disneyland Resort Theme Parks (which includes Disneyland and Disney California Adventure). The purpose of a recent Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory is to notify public health departments and healthcare facilities about this measles outbreak and to provide guidance to healthcare providers. Healthcare providers should ensure that all of their patients are current on MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. They should consider measles in the differential diagnosis of patients with fever and rash and ask patients about recent international travel or travel to domestic venues frequented by international travelers. They should also ask patients about their history of measles exposures in their community. Please disseminate this information to healthcare providers in hospitals and emergency rooms, to primary care providers, and to microbiology laboratories. [For more information...](#)

25. Institute of Medicine Releases PAPER Report for Healthcare Stakeholders

The Institute of Medicine Use and Effectiveness of Powered Air-Purifying Respirators in Health Care Report, published January 6, 2015, was commissioned by NIOSH in an effort to gather and compile information regarding the needs of the healthcare stakeholder. NIOSH is moving toward more contemporary approaches to updating the standard in accordance with the 1995 National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) (Public Law 104-113) to address innovative technologies and contemporary applications for PAPRs. The report is being used as one of many significant inputs to revising the standards and prioritizing the performance requirements to be incorporated in the standards that are underway at this time. [For more information...](#)

NIOSH and OSHA Provide New Resource to Help Ebola Responders Prevent Fatigue

A new factsheet is now available to help healthcare workers, responders, and employers prevent work-related fatigue in tending to Ebola cases. NIOSH and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) together released the document Preventing Worker Fatigue Among Ebola Healthcare Workers and Responders, which provides practical tips and resources for employers and workers involved with cases related to Ebola. [For more information...](#)

26. Military Making Progress towards Academic Affiliations in METC Training

In a recent article on the Military Health System’s web site, *Military Medics Train for the Mission, Get Educated for a Lifetime*, readers will gain a bit of insight into the 50 separate basic and advanced Army, Navy and Air Force enlisted medical courses of study at the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) which graduates up to 20,000 medics, corpsmen, and medical technicians for the U.S. military each year. The article states that METC is now looking into academic affiliation opportunities that would help students obtain degrees for their hard work and that more than 200 bridge programs in 30 states have been or are being developed with civilian programs, to make sure the education being offered at METC is recognized as meeting the same professional standards required by organizations outside of the military, such as universities and colleges, state boards of nursing and allied health specialties, higher education coordinating boards, and a myriad of practice credentialing bodies. [For more information...](#)

27. LODD Report Highlights Need for Improved Awareness, Training, and Importance of Highway Design

The Alexandria (VA) Fire Department has released its findings of an investigation into an EMS Line of Duty Death (LODD) involving Paramedic Joshua Weissman who tragically fell to his death while traversing a highway barrier at an incident on Interstate 395 near the city in 2012. The report highlights the increased need for situational awareness, training, and highway design standards that could have prevented this fatality. We take note of this egregious observation from the report: “When a Firefighter Line of Duty Death occurs, NIOSH is the federal agency responsible for an investigation. The Medic involved in this tragedy was hired and trained as a single role paramedic for the Alexandria Fire Department and was not cross-trained as a firefighter. Therefore NIOSH did not investigate the incident. There is no federal agency that is responsible for an EMS LODD unless those involved are also trained as firefighters.” The EMS community mourns the loss of Paramedic Weissman and we hope that the valuable lessons learned from this report will serve to protect all responders to future highway incidents. [For more information...](#)

28. DOT to Unveil “Beyond Traffic” Outlook on Future of Transportation Infrastructure

On Monday, February 2 at 3 p.m. PST/6 p.m. EST, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will join Google Chairman Eric Schmidt to unveil “Beyond Traffic,” a new analysis from the U.S. Department of Transportation that anticipates the trends and choices facing our transportation system over the next three decades. Thirty years from now, America will be home to 70 million more people, many in cities in the South and West, transforming the way

we move people and goods. Twenty-nine billion more tons of freight will need to cross the country as we simultaneously imagine and adapt to the promise of new technologies and innovation. America is changing, and our transportation system must get ahead of that change or be overwhelmed by it. "Beyond Traffic" is offered to the public as a draft to ignite a national conversation about our shared future. A final report will be released later in 2015. The public may watch the unveiling of "Beyond Traffic" live online [here](#).

29. Nominations Being Accepted for Roadway Safety Awards

The Roadway Safety Foundation and the Federal Highway Administration are now accepting applications for their joint 2015 National Roadway Safety Awards. Applications are due May 15. Below please find the links to the nomination brochure as well as the application.

- <http://www.roadwaysafety.org/wp-content/uploads/nomination-brochure2015.pdf>
- <http://www.roadwaysafety.org/wp-content/uploads/safety-awards-application-form2015.pdf>

30. Field-Deployable Neurocognitive Assessment Tool Receives FDA Premarket Approval

The Defense Automated Neurobehavioral Assessment (DANA) is a new neurocognitive assessment tool that includes a library of standardized cognitive and psychological assessments, with three versions that range from a brief 5-minute screen to a 45-minute complete assessment using the Android open-source operating system and is suitable for multiple mobile platforms. Military researchers tested 224 active duty U.S. service members in five operationally relevant environments (desert, jungle, mountain, arctic, and shipboard), finding DANA to be a reliable instrument and compared favorably to other computer-based neurocognitive assessments. DANA is a mobile phone-based application designed to help medical providers identify cases of traumatic brain injury in almost any setting, which may help clinicians diagnose a patient in as little as five minutes. The app has received 510(k) Premarket Notification approval by the Food and Drug Administration. [For more information...](#)

31. FDA Approves Single-Access Right Heart Pump

The FDA has approved the Impella RP System — the first percutaneous single-access heart pump that provides support to the right side of the heart — the manufacturer announced this week. The approval, under a Humanitarian Device Exemption, is based on results of a single-arm study that enrolled 30 patients. The overall survival rate was 73% at 30 days. The device is indicated to provide circulatory support for as long as 14 days to pediatric or adult patients with acute right heart failure or with decompensation after implantation of a left ventricular assist device, myocardial infarction, heart transplant, or open-heart surgery. The Impella RP provides up to four liters per minute of hemodynamic support, according to the company. [For more information...](#)

32. CDC Investigates Reports of Acute Flaccid Myelitis

From August 2, 2014 to January 14, 2015, CDC has verified reports of 107 children in 34 states who developed acute flaccid myelitis that meets CDC's [case definition](#). CDC continues to collaborate with partners nationally to investigate reported cases, risk factors, and possible causes of this condition.

- The median age of the children was about 7 years.
- Almost all of them were hospitalized; some were put on breathing machines.
- Most patients had fever and/or respiratory illness before onset of neurologic symptoms.
- About two thirds of the children who have been observed (median 19 days) after their illness reported some improvement in symptoms, while about one third showed no improvement. Only one of the children has fully recovered.

CDC continues to test specimens from these patients for a wide range of pathogens that can result in this syndrome. See CDC's MMWR [Acute Flaccid Myelitis Among Persons Aged ≤21 Years — United States, August 1–November 13, 2014](#) for more information about cases confirmed through November 13, 2014.

In related news, researchers from the Children's Hospital Colorado have associated local outbreaks of acute flaccid myelitis to enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). A free podcast on the topic is available [here](#).

33. 2015 Childhood Immunizations Schedule Released

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released its 2015 schedule of child and adolescent immunizations. Some of the changes from 2014 include:

- Certain children aged 2 to 8 years will require two doses of inactivated influenza vaccine or live-attenuated influenza vaccine. These include children who did not receive at least one dose of the 2013–14 seasonal influenza vaccine or at least two doses of seasonal flu vaccine since July 1, 2010. Beginning at age 9, only one annual dose is required.
- Infants aged 6 through 11 months who are traveling internationally should receive one dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine before their departure. Subsequently, they should receive two additional doses of the vaccine, the first dose at ages 12 through 15 months and the second at least 4 weeks later.
- The meningococcal vaccine schedule has been revised to clarify the correct dosing schedule for the three vaccines for infants and children at high risk.

[For more information...](#) The AAP "Redbook" version is available [here](#).

34. AHRQ Report Finds More Children Hospitalized for Suicide, Self-Injury

Hospitalizations for suicide and self-injury increased significantly for all children between 2006 and 2011, especially among children ages 10 to 14, according to a new article in the journal *Academic Pediatrics*. The analysis of hospitalizations from 2006 to 2011 is based on a report prepared from data sources sponsored by AHRQ and led by AHRQ researchers. The report found that nearly 59,000 children ages 1 to 17 were admitted to the hospital for a suicide or self-injury diagnosis in 2011, rising 104 percent in the five-year study period. The increase was the most pronounced in children ages 10 to 14, rising 151 percent, and among children ages 5 to 9, rising 130 percent. The article and [abstract](#), "Annual Report on Health Care for Children and Youth in the United States: National Estimates of Cost, Utilization and Expenditures for Children with Mental Disorders," appears in the January-February issue of *Academic Pediatrics*.

35. Research Grants Available for Preventing Violence and Violence Related Injury

CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is soliciting investigator-initiated research that will help expand and advance knowledge in three areas: 1) how best to disseminate, implement, and translate evidence-based primary prevention strategies, programs, and policies designed to reduce youth violence; 2) what works to prevent violence by rigorously evaluating primary prevention strategies, programs, and policies; and 3) research to determine ways to effectively prevent serious and lethal interpersonal or self-directed violence. [For more information...](#)

36. CDC Announces Grant Opportunity to Evaluate "Heads Up" Training Materials in Youth Sports

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced a grant opportunity to rigorously evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of concussion education and awareness programs that use CDC Heads Up training, toolkits, and other materials within local youth sports organizations (leagues, clubs) or high school sports.

The primary benefit of the evaluation is to understand how local programs are implementing concussion education and awareness programs, and determining the impact of those programs, so that sports organizations and schools can make local improvements. A secondary purpose is to evaluate whether rule and practice changes in sports can complement the effects of education and awareness efforts. [For more information...](#)

37. Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014 Now Widely Available from the COT

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) has provided the final version (v1.1) of the 2014 Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient document available for download. It has also created a resource repository, which is referred to in several places throughout the document. According to the ACS web site, the content related to the criteria is complete and the ACS does not envision any additional edits to the content until a formal process is developed for ongoing revision of the document. Verification applicants with any visits scheduled on or after July 1, 2015, will be required to meet the criteria contained in the Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014. Hard copies of the *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014* manual are now available for purchase. [For more information...](#)

38. NHTSA to Collect info on EMS Driver Training

In order to characterize ambulance driver training across the United States, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) proposes to collect information from EMS agencies providing ambulance services and State offices responsible for overseeing training, licensing, and regulation of EMS agencies and their drivers. NHTSA is interested in learning about what types of driver training are required, when the training is required (new drivers, continuing education, etc.), how driving incidents (crashes, moving violations, etc.) impact driving privileges, initial qualification standards (age, number of years with license, driving record, etc.), and other related topics. Participation in the study will be voluntary and will only include State level agency representatives and representatives from EMS agencies that offer ambulance services. Data collection will be in the form of semi-structured interviews in-person or over the phone of contacts at State offices and an Internet-based survey of EMS agencies providing ambulance services. EMS agencies will be contacted via email, mail, or phone with a link to the Internet survey. State offices will be contacted via email or phone to participate in the semi-structured interviews. A Request For Public Comment On Proposed Collection Of Information has been published in the Federal Register. The deadline for comment is 3/23/15. [For more information...](#)

39. NIOSH Seeks Comments on NORA

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is currently seeking comment on the Second Decade of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). NORA is a partnership program to stimulate innovative research and improved workplace practices. Unveiled in 1996, it has become a research framework for NIOSH and the nation. Diverse parties collaborate to identify the most critical issues in workplace safety and health. NORA Sector Councils have created sector agendas for the nation to guide research and research-to-practice through the decade ending April 2016. The NORA Public Safety Sub-Sector includes corrections, **emergency medical services**, fire fighting and law enforcement. The NORA Public Safety Council produced the National Public Safety Agenda to address occupational safety and health issues for public safety workers after evaluation of surveillance data, expert and practitioner input and public comments. The NORA Public Safety Sector included over 3.5 million employees and volunteers in 2011. To view the notice, visit <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter CDC-2015-0002 in the search field and click "Search." Electronic or written comments must be received by March 24, 2015.

40. SAMHSA Releases Guidance on Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released guidance on the clinical use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT), including buprenorphine and naltrexone, for opioid use disorder. This SAMHSA guidance is based on the work of a panel of experts on opioid use disorder, and it explores clinical evidence around assessing patient need for treatment, delivering MAT, and ending treatment. The guidance also notes the value in working with primary care physicians and their care teams to deliver MAT to those with opioid use disorder. [For more information...](#)

41. New OIG Guide Available from DHS

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released a new *Guide to the DHS Office of Inspector General*, which provides a quick overview of the office, including contact info to the Hotline (to report alleged fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement involving DHS programs) and the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman. OIG audits, inspections, and investigations focus on DHS core missions. [For more information...](#)

42. FDA to Require Premarket Approval of AEDs

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced that it will strengthen its review of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to help improve the quality and reliability of these devices. The FDA issued a final order that will require AED manufacturers to submit premarket approval applications (PMAs), which undergo a more rigorous review than what was required to market these devices in the past. The agency’s strengthened review will focus on the critical requirements needed to ensure the safety and reliability of AEDs and their necessary accessories, including batteries, pad electrodes, adapters and hardware keys for pediatric use. Given the importance of these devices in emergency situations, AEDs currently on the market will remain available while manufacturers work to meet the new PMA requirements. The FDA does not intend to enforce the PMA requirement for AEDs until July 29, 2016, as long as manufacturers notify the FDA of their intent to file a PMA by April 29, 2015. The FDA does not intend to enforce the PMA requirement for currently marketed, necessary AED accessories until January 29, 2020. [For more information...](#)



43. DPHHS Receives \$3.2 Million Gift to Enhance Heart Attack Survival in Rural Montana

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has received a \$3.2 million gift from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to implement a three-year Cardiac Ready Communities initiative in Montana. This funding will be used to enhance the overall emergency medical system (EMS) in Montana. The centerpiece of the Cardiac Ready Communities initiative includes the purchase of 222 automatic compression devices, called the Physio-Control LUCAS® 2 Chest Compression System, which is enough to equip every Montana community that has an organized EMS service with the staff and vehicle to respond. Some units will also go to hospitals, including Critical Access Hospitals. The units cost about \$11,000 each, which equates to about \$2.4 million of the total funds. DPHHS Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Section supervisor (and NASEMSO Immediate Past President) Jim DeTienne said the process to distribute the new devices will begin immediately. The process includes local communities signing an agreement stating they have agreed to work with

the project to become a 'Cardiac Ready Community.' The goal is to have all the devices distributed over the next 18 months. [For more information...](#)

44. Nominations Accepted for Advocate of the Year Award

The Field EMS Bill Advocate of the Year Award was introduced last year to recognize an individual's outstanding advocacy efforts in support of the Field EMS Bill, legislation that responds to the Institute of Medicine's recommendations to improve EMS in our nation. Nominations for the 2015 award is now open and will continue through February 20. Do you know an EMS professional whose advocacy efforts on the Field EMS Bill went above and beyond in 2014? Please consider nominating them for this special recognition. Award recipients will be honored at the closing reception of EMS On The Hill Day on April 29, and receive an all-expenses paid trip to this year's EMS On The Hill Day, April 28-29 in Washington, D.C. [For more information...](#)

45. PEHSC Seeks Speakers for Annual Statewide Conference

The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) has issued a Call for Speakers for the 2015 Pennsylvania Statewide EMS Conference. The dates are:

- September 10-12, 2015 –DoubleTree Resort, Lancaster, PA
- September 25-26, 2015 - Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA

The deadline for submission is February 20 2015. For more information, contact [Travis Woodyard](#).

46. Gray et al. Cumulative Use of Strong Anticholinergics and Incident Dementia in JAMA Intern Med

In the recent issue of *JAMA Internal Medicine*, Gray and colleagues present findings from an observational analysis that show a higher risk for dementia with the increasing dose and duration of exposure to medications with strong anticholinergic activity. The risk for dementia was consistent when comparing participants with recent and past heavy use of such medications with nonusers, suggesting that the adverse cognitive effects are permanent even at recommended doses. Other studies have consistently shown similar results. [Read the abstract...](#)

47. AAP Technical Report: Patient and Family Centered Care of Children in the Emergency Department

Patient- and family-centered care is an approach to the planning, delivery, and evaluation of health care that is grounded in a mutually beneficial partnership among patients, families, and health care professionals. Providing patient- and family-centered care to children in the emergency department setting presents many opportunities and challenges. This revised technical report draws on previously published policy statements and reports, reviews the current literature, and describes the present state of practice and research regarding patient- and family-centered care for children in the emergency department setting as well as some of the complexities of providing such care. [For more information...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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*****STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES*****

*****National Conferences and Special Meetings*****

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE: CALENDAR ITEMS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!! Send to robinson@nasemsso.org

*****STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES*****

[2015 John M. Templeton Jr. Pediatric Trauma Symposium](#). March 6 – 7, 2015. Omni William Penn Hotel Pittsburgh, PA. [TOPIC course](#) (Pediatric focused) as a pre-conference March 5, 2015

*The 38th Annual Pennsylvania EMS Conference. September 10-12, 2015 in Lancaster, PA and September 25-26, 2015 in Altoona, PA. [For more information...](#)

*****National Conferences and Special Meetings*****

NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 1

Fairfax, VA: February 6 - 8, 2015

Merced, CA: February 27 - March 1, 2015

Atlanta, GA: March 6 - 8, 2015

Champaign, IL: March 13 - 15, 2015

Springfield, MO: April 17 - 19, 2015

Vancouver, WA: April 24 - 26, 2015

NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 2

Brooklyn, NY: February 20-21, 2015

Fairfax, VA: March 20 - 21, 2015

Rochester, NY: April 10 - 11, 2015

CAAHEP Accreditation Update & Evaluating Student Competency Workshops

Dallas, TX: March 5-7, 2015

[For more information...](#)

[EMS Today -The JEMS Conference and Expo.](#) February 25-28, 2015. Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD.

[AAEM Scientific Assembly.](#) Feb 28-March 4, 2015. Austin, TX.

[Fire-Rescue Med 2015.](#) Hosted by IAFC. March 21-25, 2015 in Henderson, NV.

[2015 Preparedness Summit: Global Health Security: Preparing a Nation for Emerging Threats.](#) April 14-17, 2015 in Atlanta, GA.

[NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting.](#) April 19-22, 2015. San Antonio, TX.

[EMS On The Hill Day.](#) Briefing on April 28, 2015; Hill visits on April 29, 2015. Washington, DC

National Rural EMS Leadership Conference. May 5-6, 2015 Cheyenne, WY

NAEMSE Annual Symposium. August 4-9, 2015. Nashville, TN.

[Pinnacle 2015.](#) August 3-7, 2015. Jacksonville, FL.

[EMS World Expo.](#) September 15-19, 2015. Las Vegas, NV.

[ENA Annual Meeting.](#) September 28-October 3, 2015. Orlando, FL.

[NASEMSO Annual Meeting.](#) October 12-16, 2015. Louisville, KY.

ACEP Scientific Assembly. October 26-29, 2015. Boston, MA.

IAEM Annual Conference and EMEX Expo. November 13-18, 2015 in Las Vegas, NV. Speaker abstracts are currently being accepted. To be selected, it is crucial that your submission be compelling in both the importance of the subject matter and also show your knowledge and experience of the subject. [You must follow all the submission requirements, outlined in the Speaker Guidance.](#) [Go here for more information](#) about the Annual Conference. The deadline for speaker submissions is February 20, 2015

See more EMS Events on NASEMSO's web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/Resources/Calendar/index.asp>

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