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August 2018

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[NASEMSO NEWS](#)

1. NASEMSO Announces Update of National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines to Version 2.1

The National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines, Version 2 was updated recently when a reviewer noted a dosing error in the Pediatric Respiratory Distress (croup) guideline. On page 139 under (3) Inhaled medications (a) Epinephrine nebulized was changed to Epinephrine 5 mL of 1 mg/mL (5 mg) nebulized. NASEMSO notified those who had requested the document in Microsoft Word since the 2017 version was released in September. Other users who have downloaded the PDF version of the document should note the correction. The updated version is known as the National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines, Version 2.1 and dated June 29, 2018. Learn more about the project and get a copy of the newly revised document [here](#).

2. NASEMSO Responds to Ambulance “Borders in the Sky”

Portions of the air medical industry have recently called for action against a U.S. Senate Bill ([S. 2812](#)) introduced to provide consumer protections, arguing that it would “essentially create borders in the sky, preventing air ambulances from crossing state lines to get patients to the nearest, most appropriate medical facility.”

NASEMSO, as the collective voice of each state office charged with oversight and regulation of emergency medical services, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, recently released a [press release](#) in response to these concerns.

3. NASEMSO to Host Webinar on Health Surveillance for EMS Workers Using NEMESIS Data

NASEMSO will host a webinar on Occupational Health Surveillance for EMS Workers on September 12, 2018 at 1 p.m. ET. This session will provide an overview of data elements in NEMESIS Version 3 standards that can be used to inform and improve EMS safety policy and practice, including safer ambulance design, and proper infection control and PPE practices. The abstract for this upcoming presentation is currently available on our web site [here](#). Dr. Matthew Groenewold of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is the featured presenter. The session is open to all interested persons.

To register, click [here](#).

Other sessions that are currently available for review include:

- [Using GAMUT to Improve EMS Transport Performance](#)
- [The Ambulance Remount Discussion: Panel Discussion](#)
- [Development and Validation of the Air Medical Prehospital Triage Score](#)
- [Development of Fatigue Risk Management Guidelines in EMS](#)

4. NASEMSO Regional Meetings Replace Traditional “Mid-Year” Meeting

Fall 2017 marked the end of an era at NASEMSO. Our traditional “mid-year” meeting format has been retired. In its place, however, each of NASEMSO’s Regions have the opportunity to host their own to enable broader local participation. The schedule for various NASEMSO regional meetings is now available.

Western Plains

CO, IA, KS, MO, MT, NE, ND, SD, UT, WY

Sept. 17-19, 2018 in Denver, CO

[Learn more and register.](#)

East

CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, PR, RI, VT, VA, VI, WV

Oct. 2, 2018 in Atlantic City, NJ

[Learn more and register.](#)

West

AK, AS, AZ, CA, GU, HI, ID, MP, NV, OR, WA

Oct. 2-4, 2018 in Boise, ID

[Learn more and register.](#)

South

AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NM, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX

Nov. 5-6, 2018 in Destin, FL

[Learn more and register.](#)

5. Taillac to Serve as NEMSQA Vice Chair

Dr. Peter Taillac, Utah State EMS Medical Director, has been elected Vice-Chair of the National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA). Dr. Taillac will also serve as the NASEMSO representative to the newly formed organization. NEMSQA will establish performance measures involving emergency and non-emergency medical services, first-responders, and entities providing mobile integrated health care/community paramedicine services. Congratulations, Dr. Taillac! [Read more.](#)

6. NASEMSO Supports Letter to Congress on Impaired Driving

The House Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection recently conducted a hearing on drug-impaired driving. Expert witnesses representing an array of organizations highlighted the barriers to addressing the growing problem of drug-impaired driving. The witnesses noted several barriers:

- Identification of drug-impaired drivers without scientifically proven blood per se limits (which do not exist)
- The need for better data and thorough testing to accurately identify the scope of the problem
- More training for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and toxicology labs
- More research to study impairment at various consumption levels for drugs, most notably levels of marijuana

and opioids (the most common drugs found in fatally injured drivers)

- More research to accurately assess crash risk for drivers under the influence of drugs
- Greater public awareness and enforcement efforts

NASEMSO continues to help increase awareness in this important safety concern and has offered its support to an organizational letter hosted by the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility. [Read more.](#)

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[FOR THE STATES](#)

7. Major Cities Sue Trump Administration Over ACA Cuts

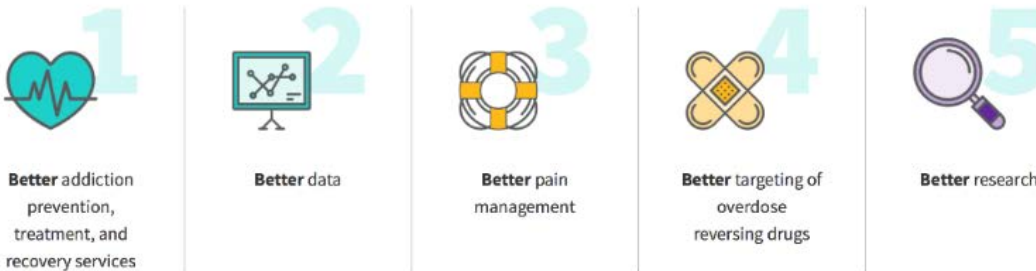
According to Modern Healthcare, four major U.S. cities sued the Trump administration over its regulatory dismantling of the Affordable Care Act, claiming that federal actions are already overtaxing their health departments. Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati and Columbus joined liberal advocacy groups in the suit, filed in a U.S. District Court in Maryland, alleging that President Donald Trump and his administration "are deliberately trying to make the (ACA) fail." They maintain that these efforts will drain city budgets and resources to manage public health as coverage rates are predicted to drop.

The cities said the Trump administration actions have led to a greater burden on their community health centers and ambulance systems and are increasing the overall costs of a sicker population. The complaint alleged the moves have led to a "slow trend upward" of the uninsured rate—which dipped to an all-time low of 9.1% in 2015. [Read more.](#)

8. CMS Offers Five-Point Strategy to Combat Opioid Crisis

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released guidance through a State Medicaid Director's Letter [SMD#18-006](#) on how states can leverage Medicaid technology to address the opioid crisis.

HHS 5-POINT STRATEGY TO COMBAT THE OPIOIDS CRISIS



EMS are identified as partners that could benefit from access to prescription drug

monitoring programs' data through health information exchange. The letter also reminds State Medicaid Directors to add data sources, including EMS data, to the Medicaid system to help close referral loops, enable appropriate follow-up, and coordinate patient care.

[Read more.](#)

In related news, Emergency Response TIPS, LLC and Kopis Mobile, LLC worked together to produce a free app to guide the logic of an operational response to synthetic opioids.

You can download it from the [Play store](#) or the [App store](#).

9. NACCHO Releases Guide for Medical Countermeasure Coordinators

Medical countermeasures (MCM) coordinators who are new to their role have a particularly steep learning curve to become familiar with their jurisdictional plans, federal preparedness guidance and requirements, organizations that can support MCM operations, and MCM product information. NACCHO provides guidance documents, resources, and trainings about medical countermeasures. Browse their new guide [here](#).

10. Congressman Introduces National Public Health Act

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) introduced the National Public Health Act ([H.R. 6481](#)) to hold corporations accountable for actions that hurt public health. The National Public Health Act would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with the National Academy of Medicine to establish and continuously update a list of public health crises. In addition, the Secretary of HHS would be required to develop a list of products that contribute to these public health crises. Any company that manufactures these products would then be required to develop and implement a plan to mitigate any public health impacts of the covered product. Read the press release [here](#).

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[AIR MEDICAL](#)

11. Drone Near-miss Recorded by ID Firefighting Helicopter

In eastern Idaho, a helicopter battling the Grassy Ridge Fire nearly collided with a privately-owned drone flying nearby. The helicopter pilot spotted the drone around 9:20 a.m. and was able to avoid a mid-air crash. All aircraft in use for fighting the nearly 100,000-acre Grassy Ridge Fire were immediately grounded and will remain so, according to the Interagency Incident Management Team. The mandatory stop in aircraft use will hamper the fire suppression and repair efforts until it can be verified that it's safe for firefighters to fly again. A flight crew member photographed a white pickup truck speeding away from the area. The Fremont County Sheriff's Office was notified, and law enforcement officers were dispatched to the area. [Read more.](#)

12. FAA Hits 100K Remote Pilot Certificates Issued

Drones have really taken off! As of today, more than 100,000 enthusiasts have obtained a Remote Pilot Certificate to fly a drone for commercial and recreational (not qualifying as “model aircraft”) use since the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) small drone rule went into effect on August 29, 2016. Under Part 107, the person actually flying a drone—formally an unmanned aircraft system or UAS—must have a Remote Pilot Certificate or be directly supervised by someone with such a certificate. Most drone pilots get certified by studying online materials and then passing an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA approved knowledge testing center. The exam success rate is 92 percent. [Read more.](#)

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[COMMUNICATIONS](#)

13. 911 Grant Program Publishes Final Regulations, Applications to Open Soon

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Commerce announced final rules for a grant program that will offer up to \$110 million to help states, territories, tribal organizations and the District of Columbia upgrade their 911 call centers to Next Generation 911 (NG911) capabilities.

"In emergencies, quick access to the right resources can save lives," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao. "The 911 Grant Program will make it possible for states and local jurisdictions to improve their emergency technology while providing the support first responders need to do their jobs."

The final regulations are a crucial step before the 911 community can submit applications for up to \$110 million in grant funds. Eligibility is limited to states and tribal organizations. Read the final rules [here](#).

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[HEALTH AND MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS](#)

14. FBI Summarizes Active Shooter Incidents in New Report

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently released a report on active shooter incidents in the United States during 2016-2017. This report supplements two previous publications. The FBI defines an active shooter as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. In 2016-2017, there were:

- 50 incidents in 21 states, compared to 40 incidents in 26 states in 2014-2015
- 221 people killed and 722 wounded, compared to 92 killed and 139 wounded in 2014-2015
- 13 law enforcement officers killed and 20 wounded, compared to four killed and ten wounded in 2014-2015 (2016 saw the highest number of law enforcement casualties since 2000)
- 20 incidents met the “mass killing” definition, federally defined as “three or more killings in a single incident”, unchanged from 2014-2015

The enhanced threat posed by active shooters and the swiftness with which these types of incidents unfold supports the importance of preparedness by first responders and citizens alike. Please see the [full report](#) for more statistics and details on citizen engagement, casualties, locations, and shooters.

In related news, a new FBI report about active shooter incidents in the United States between 2000 and 2013 examines specific behaviors that may precede an attack and that might be useful in identifying, assessing, and managing those who may be on a pathway to violence. Read “Study of Pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters” [here](#).

15. NCCoE Releases Cybersecurity Practice Guide for Public Safety First Responders

The National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE), a division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), recently released a draft of the NIST Cybersecurity Practice Guide, SP 1800-13, Mobile Application Single Sign-On: Improving Authentication for Public Safety First Responders. The project's public comment period has closed and received comments are being processed. For ease of use, the guide is available in volumes:

- [SP 1800-13a: Executive Summary](#) — [PDF](#)
- [SP 1800-13b: Approach, Architecture, and Security Characteristics](#) — [PDF](#)
- [SP 1800-13c: How-To Guides](#) — [PDF](#)

The [complete guide](#) is also available. See the two-page fact sheet for an overview of the project.

If you have additional comments or questions, please email us at psfr-nccoe@nist.gov.

16. Building Emergency Response Capacity Workshop Summary Released

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) has released a [summary](#) from its March workshop on engaging the health care system in building capacity to respond to public health and national security threats. The event brought together public and private sector partners to discuss challenges and opportunities for collaboration. On Aug. 22-23, NAEM will host a workshop in Washington, D.C., on medical and public health preparedness for a nuclear incident. Learn more and register [here](#).

17. Utilization of Urgent Care Centers in Medical Surge Focus

of New Report

Urgent care centers are a growing presence in the healthcare marketplace, with more than 8,100 locations nationwide. Yet, limited information is available about ongoing preparedness activities among urgent care centers or their readiness to contribute to the healthcare system response to emergencies and disasters.

ASPR TRACIE conducted 18 interviews with urgent care center leaders associated with centers in 44 states to capture a snapshot of current activities and perceptions. A key finding from the interviews was that urgent care centers are willing to participate in emergency preparedness and response efforts and have personnel skilled in providing the types of services that may be needed during a disaster. A new report from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), [Engagement of Urgent Care Centers in Medical Surge Activities](#), provides insight into this potential partnership.

18. FEMA Releases Planning Considerations: Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks

FEMA released "Planning Considerations: Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks" to aid all community partners, including all levels of government, infrastructure owners and operators, small businesses, non-profit organizations, and volunteer organizations, in planning and preparing for complex coordinated terrorist attack scenarios. Complex coordinated terrorist attacks represent an evolving and dynamic terrorist threat with the potential for mass casualties and infrastructure damage anywhere and at any time. The guide includes the unique characteristics of complex coordinated terrorist attacks, identifies potential challenges, and discusses the six-step planning process as it relates to complex coordinated terrorist attacks. The guide also provides information on identifying the capabilities necessary to respond to complex coordinated terrorist attacks using the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, and it includes a list of relevant, available resources.

To download a copy of "Planning Considerations: Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks," visit www.fema.gov/plan.

19. CDC Offers Radiological Terrorism Toolkits

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted two toolkits about radiological terrorism planning and response on their web page, one for public health officials and one for emergency services clinicians. The toolkits contain PDF files, videos, guidance, and instructional trainings. Topics include guidelines for handling decedents contaminated with radioactive materials, psychological first aid in radiation disasters, acute radiation syndrome, and population monitoring in radiation emergencies for state and local public health planners. [Read more](#).

20. New CBRN Respiratory Protection Handbook Available

NIOSH has released a new [Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear \(CBRN\) Respiratory Protection Handbook](#). This handbook fills the need for authoritative technical information on CBRN respiratory protective devices. The information will assist users in the selection, use, and maintenance of CBRN respirators and will be particularly useful to individuals responsible for administering respiratory protection programs or developing training programs.

21. NASEM Offers Workshop Report on Role of Healthcare System in Securing the Nation

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a 2-day public workshop on March 20 and 21, 2018 to identify and understand approaches to aligning health care system incentives with the American public's need for a health care system that is prepared to manage acutely ill and injured patients during a disaster, public health emergency, or other mass casualty event. Read the summary of the presentations and discussions from the workshop [here](#).

22. New Guide for Radiological Traveler Screening at Ports of Entry Announced

The National Alliance for Radiation Readiness developed an introductory guide to screening travelers arriving at U.S. ports of entry (POE) who may be contaminated with or exposed to radioactive material following an international radiological incident. The information contained in this guide is intended to be used by state, local, and tribal public health professionals to supplement existing jurisdictional emergency operations plans and procedures during traveler screening activities.

The guide is divided into sections that lead the planner or responder through the traveler screening process, beginning with consent and registration and ending with developing an optional long-term registry. Specific key communication messages are presented throughout the document in each response section. This document aims to provide state, local, and tribal planners with guidance on how to:

- Screen, decontaminate, or provide medical follow-up and long-term follow-up for travelers, staff at U.S. international POE, and others with contamination or exposure
- Communicate information and risk effectively with travelers, who may need urgent medical referrals, decontamination, or reassurance that they are not contaminated or exposed
- Collect and use exposure and epidemiologic data to provide situational awareness and determine the radiological incident's future public health impacts

As an informational resource, planners may use this guide as a tool to develop and refine jurisdictional plans. The guide is designed to support scalable and flexible planning. This includes exploring and considering all locally-available resources along with traditional and non-traditional responder governmental and non-governmental agencies for collaboration and partnerships. Get the guide [here](#).

23. FEMA Releases 2017 Hurricane After-Action Report

The 2017 hurricane season was record-setting and tested the plans, training and expectations of all concerned. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) "2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report" looks at FEMA's successes and failures in the preparation, response, and early recovery operations for hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. FEMA lists 18 key findings drawn from this review and lists recommendations to implement in future mass disasters. The report addresses staffing shortages, tracking resources, creating readiness stocks outside the

continental United States, increasing state roles and responsibilities, and improving communications critical infrastructure. [Read more.](#)

24. House Committee Approves PAHPA Reauthorization Bill

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce voted recently to advance the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018 (PAHPAI), [H.R. 6378](#), to the full House of Representatives. This legislation would reauthorize the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) for another five years. Funding for PAHPA expires September 30. The House version of PAHPAI includes the Mission Zero Act, [H.R. 880](#), which would build upon the legislative framework passed in the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act and provides \$15 million in grant funding to further incorporate military trauma care providers into the civilian setting. These military-civilian trauma care partnerships will increase military health care readiness and ensure the provision of high-quality trauma care both domestically and abroad.

In addition, the House bill includes the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act, [H.R. 1876](#), which would reduce barriers for health care providers who volunteer during a federally declared disaster. The Senate version of PAHPAI, [S. 2852](#), is awaiting action before the full Senate.

25. EMS Considerations in No-Notice Incidents

This two-page document from TRACIE (Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange) is one in a series of tip sheets for hospitals and other healthcare providers planning for no-notice incident response. This tip sheet for emergency medical systems covers pre-event considerations, initial response, EMS support for hospitals, and other considerations. It also provides a list of related TRACIE resources. [Read more.](#)

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[MEDICAL DIRECTION](#)

26. Investigation Sought in Minneapolis Ketamine Trials

Following revelations last month about two controlled trials of ketamine for treating severe agitation—with drugs injected by first responders without the patients' individual consent—the consumer group Public Citizen and dozens of independent physicians are calling for a federal investigation. The Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper published a [series of stories](#) in June detailing the trials, which were the first quasi-randomized studies comparing ketamine with traditional medications (i.e., haloperidol and midazolam) used to sedate agitated patients in emergency settings. The trials had been approved under a "waiver of consent" process, under which the investigators said risks were minimal; they also consulted beforehand with community groups, including patients in a homeless shelter under treatment for substance abuse. [Read more.](#)

27. ASHP Updates Guidelines for Managing Drug Shortages

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists published [updated guidelines](#) this week for managing drug shortages. Developed by a leading expert on drug shortages, the guidelines offer strategies to minimize the impact of drug shortages on patient care. In its latest [annual report](#) to Congress on drug shortages, the Food and Drug Administration identified 39 new drug and biological product shortages in 2017, up from 26 in 2016, and 41 ongoing shortages from prior years. The agency recently announced a [task force](#) to address the root causes of the shortages.

28. Citing Insufficient Evidence, Petition for SSC Retraction Launched by Physician Group

Authors of a new [petition](#) to retract the Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) guidelines suggest that because of adoption of the guidelines by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a core measure, physicians are compelled “to administer treatments despite their best medical judgment” and that the practice (particularly the use of the “Hour-1 Bundle”) is potentially harming patients.

According to EMCRIT/PULMCRIT, concern regarding the SSC guidelines dates back to their inception. Eli Lilly and Edwards Life Sciences sponsored the guidelines’ development as part of a commercial marketing campaign and the SSC has a history of conflicts of interest, making strong recommendations based on weak evidence, and being poorly responsive to new evidence. Notably, eleven of 24 guideline authors had financial conflicts of interest with Eli Lilly. The original backbone of the guidelines was a single-center trial by Rivers defining a protocol for early goal-directed therapy, and the SSC continued to recommend them even after key elements of the Rivers protocol were disproven. For example, SSC continued to recommend the use of central venous pressure and mixed venous oxygen saturation after the emergence of evidence that they were nonbeneficial (including the PROCESS and ARISE trials). These interventions eventually fell out of favor, despite the SSC’s slow response. Read more on [Medscape](#).

29. Guidelines.Gov Goes Dark While New Funding Options Explored

The contract that supports the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) ended in July and funds are not available to continue support for the NGC. The NGC was originally created in 1998 by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in partnership with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Health Plans, now America's Health Insurance Plans. This partnership ended in 2002. AHRQ's decision to close the NGC has elicited significant feedback from the health care field, and the Agency appreciates the passionate support that users have expressed. AHRQ is exploring options to support the NGC in the future and will continue to do so even while the site remains offline. [Read more](#).

30. FDA Issues Guidance on Using EHR Data in Clinical Studies

This week, the Food and Drug Administration issued guidance intended to clarify the agency's expectations when electronic health records are used as a source of data in clinical investigations. The guidance applies to clinical investigations of human drugs and biological products, medical devices, and combination products, including investigations conducted in clinical practice settings. [Read more.](#)

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[PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE](#)

31. AAP Endorses Study on Epidemiology in Firearm Violence Prevention

The American Academy of Pediatrics has [endorsed](#) a policy brief about the role of epidemiology in firearm violence. The brief by Davis, Gaudino, Soskolne, and Al-Delaimy is accessible through the [International Journal of Epidemiology](#).

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[TRAUMA](#)

32. NCDMPH “Stop the Bleed” App Now Available!

The Uniformed Services University/National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Stop the Bleed App is now available! The app contains a video, Q&A, quiz, and other resources. Download it for free on [Apple](#) or [Google](#) devices.

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[FEDERAL PARTNERS](#)

33. NHTSA Rolls Out New Impaired Driving Campaign

Drug-impaired driving is a problem on America's highways. Like drunk driving, drugged driving is impaired driving, which means it is dangerous and illegal in every state, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. Whether the drug is

legally prescribed or illegal, driving while drug-impaired poses a threat to the driver, vehicle passengers, and other road users.

NHTSA wants to spread the word about drug-impaired driving and to remind all drivers: If you are impaired by drugs and thinking about driving, pass your keys on to a sober driver. Several new resources are available to assist members to communicate this important message. For more info, visit the [campaign page](#).

34. CMS Extends Ground Ambulance, Home Health Moratoria

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently extended its moratoria on enrollment for another six months of new Medicare home health agencies in Florida, Illinois, Michigan and Texas. New Part B non-emergency ground ambulance suppliers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania are also part of the moratoria, as are new non-emergency ground ambulance suppliers and home health agencies in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program in those states. CMS implemented the moratoria on newly enrolling Medicare providers and suppliers after it identified patterns of fraud, waste or abuse among these particular provider types and geographic locations. [Read more](#).

35. New ICD-10-CM Codes Announced on Human Trafficking

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics has released the first ICD-10-CM codes for classifying human trafficking abuse. The 29 human trafficking-related codes were included in the ICD-10-CM updates for fiscal year 2019. As coding professionals review a patient's medical record to identify the appropriate ICD-10-CM codes to include, they should be aware of and start using the ICD-10-CM codes for forced labor and sexual exploitation, listed in Table 1. Learn more about the updates [here](#).

36. NIOSH Supports Worker Well-Being in New Framework

An article recently published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine titled Expanding the Paradigm of Occupational Safety and Health: A New Framework for Worker Well-Being describes NIOSH's newly developed conceptual framework for worker well-being. Historically, worker well-being has been measured through job satisfaction, employee engagement, positive emotions, and good mental and physical health.

The new framework seeks to define and operationalize the concept of worker well-being through other domains:

- Work evaluation and experience
- Workplace physical environment and safety climate
- Workplace policies and culture
- Health status
- Home, community, and society



This framework can make a valuable contribution to the efforts of researchers, policymakers, employers, workers, and communities as they take steps to better investigate, understand, and improve the well-being of workers. To learn more about the framework and what it means for applications in occupational safety and health, please read the [article](#) and share it with your colleagues and networks using DOI 10.1097/JOM.0000000000001330.

37. Soldiers Test Army's Newest Transport Telemedicine Technology

Army Medicine is developing a technology to improve patient triage and communication during medical evacuations and looking for units to test the system. The 44th Medical Brigade and Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, have already signed up to user test Medical Hands-free Unified Broadcast, or MEDHUB.

MEDHUB leverages wearable sensors, accelerometers, and other technology cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to improve the communication flow between patients, medics and receiving field hospitals. MEDHUB's suite of technology autonomously collects, stores and transmits non-personally identifiable patient information from a device, such as a hand-held tablet, to the receiving field hospital via existing long-range Department of Defense communication systems. At the receiving hospital, the information sent from MEDHUB is displayed on a large screen so clinicians can see what is inbound, including the number of patients and their vital statistics. [Read more.](#)

38. FDA Warns of Significant Health Risks Due to Synthetic Cannabinoids

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has become aware of reports of severe illnesses and deaths resulting from the use of synthetic cannabinoid (marijuana) products that have been contaminated with brodifacoum, a very long-acting anticoagulant commonly used in rat poison. These unapproved products are being sold in convenience stores and gas stations as substitutes for marijuana under names such as “K2” and “Spice.” Use of these illegal products poses a significant public health concern for individuals who may use the contaminated products. The products also threaten the U.S. blood supply, as blood products donated by individuals who have used these substances may be contaminated. [Read more.](#)

39. U.S. DOT Appoints National EMS Advisory Council Members

The U.S. Department of Transportation has appointed 24 leaders from EMS, healthcare and other stakeholder communities to serve on the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC). Chosen from more than 100 nominations, members of the council will provide advice and recommendations to both the Department of Transportation and the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS. The members of the council include 11 new members and 13 returning from the previous term. Each member was chosen to serve a two-year term representing a specific sector of the EMS community. The appointments reflect the addition of a member representing EMS quality improvement professionals. The next meeting of NEMSAC is expected to be held later this year. The meeting will be open to the

public and details will be released as soon as it is scheduled. To learn more about NEMSAC and to sign up to receive email updates, visit EMS.gov.

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[INDUSTRY NEWS](#)

40. Missouri and New Hampshire Join REPLICA

Governor Chris Sununu signed SB 370 on July 2, 2018, paving the way for New Hampshire's entry into the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA). The bill was introduced in December 2017 and passed in one legislative session. The law becomes effective on August 31, 2018. New Hampshire will be the 15th state to join REPLICA and the first New England state to pass REPLICA legislation. Governor Mike Parson signed SB 870 on July 6, 2018, finalizing the legislation for Missouri to become the 16th state to join REPLICA. This legislation has been under consideration for two years and represents the support of many persons and advocates. Special recognition goes to Rep. Kathleen Swan for her tireless support of this initiative. The law becomes effective on August 28, 2018. Missouri joins its adjacent neighbors from Kansas, Nebraska and Tennessee as members of REPLICA.

In related news, Dan Manz, the former state EMS director for Vermont, recently replaced Sue Prentiss as the REPLICA staff lead. Dan can be reached at manz@emsreplica.org . For more information on REPLICA, visit www.emsreplica.org.

41. ILCOR Statement Regarding Publication of the PARAMEDIC2 Trial

In 2015 the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) published an updated treatment recommendation for the use of epinephrine (adrenaline) during cardiac arrest in adults. The recommendation suggested standard dose epinephrine (1.0 mg) be administered to adult patients in cardiac arrest (weak recommendation, very-low-quality evidence). This recommendation took into consideration observed benefit in short-term outcomes (return of spontaneous circulation and admission to hospital) and the uncertainty about the benefit or harm on survival to discharge and neurologic outcome. In a subsequent ILCOR publication, the absence of placebo-controlled prospective trials with adequate power to assess the effect of epinephrine on long-term outcome after cardiac arrest and the the optimal dose and timing of epinephrine during cardiac arrest were identified as key knowledge gaps.

The recently published PARAMEDIC2 study is a prospective double-blind randomized controlled trial of epinephrine compared to placebo in 8016 patients in the United Kingdom treated for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The study was powered for a primary outcome of survival to 30 days and a secondary outcome of survival to three months with good neurologic function. Read ILCOR's complete statement and plans for data review [here](#).

42. Maintaining National EMS Certification Just Got Easier

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) recently announced its first mobile app is now available for EMS personnel to efficiently manage all components of their continuing education and recertification. Compatible with iPhone devices, the National Registry mobile app allows EMS providers to

- Add courses to your transcript
- Upload photos of certificates
- Manage education and renewal requirements
- View, add or remove agency affiliations
- View your eCertification card

Training Officers and Medical Directors can manage rosters, approve the skills and education for affiliated providers, add courses, and more. Search for NREMT in the Apple App Store.

43. ATS Celebrates 50th Anniversary

For 50 years, the American Trauma Society has served as an advocate for the trauma care system, trauma prevention programs, and survivors of trauma and their families throughout the United States. Watch the [50th Anniversary Video](#) or download the [timeline](#) of important events in injury prevention over the past 50 years. Happy Anniversary, ATS!

44. RE;ACT Foundation Awareness Campaign on First Responder Suicide

RE;ACT is the Lt. Ryan Elwood; Awareness, Counseling and Training Fund for first responders in need of mental health and emotional assistance. Lt. Ryan Elwood became an EMT in 2006. In 2009, he became a firefighter for two firehouses, Hometown and North Palos, IL. He died in September 2015 by suicide.

RE;ACT celebrates Lt. Ryan Elwood's life, strives to create awareness for his battle, campaigns for much needed counseling to help his fellow fire fighters and first responders who face the same challenges each day, and funds training to benefit the profession for which he was so passionate. The semicolon is included to represent hope and love for those who are struggling with depression, suicide, addiction and self-injury. Read more about the [challenges](#) and the [campaign](#).

45. Free Training for EMS Professionals on Human Trafficking

With sponsorship from the State of Florida Attorney General, Florida State University and Trauma One have teamed up to offer a free, interactive, online training to help EMS professionals learn about human trafficking issues. In Florida, this free training offers 1.0 hour of CE credit from the University of Florida Trauma One. After completing the training, users must achieve 80% on a short quiz to receive a Certificate of Completion they send to trauma1.education@jax.ufl.edu to receive Florida CE credit. Personnel in other states should determine how they can earn CE credit in their region. The training is available [here](#).

46. General Motors Invites 911, Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire Service Representatives to OnStar Public Safety Advisory Council

General Motors has created a National Advisory Council of experts from the United States and Canada with representation from the 911, law enforcement, EMS, and fire service sectors to further strengthen GM's partnership with public safety, by:

- Gathering expert insight from a public safety perspective on public safety practices and capabilities as they pertain to OnStar emergency services
- Providing professional field input on responding to emergency situations in and around the vehicle
- Acquiring early feedback on potential new initiatives and the impact to emergency services response

This is an exciting opportunity to enhance the safety of motorists and the safety and emergency response capabilities for all of our colleagues in the sectors invited to participate on the Council. NASEMSO congratulates Dr. Carol Cunningham, OH State EMS Medical Director, for her appointment to this important industry group!

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[INTERESTING ABSTRACTS](#)

47. Plasma During Air Medical Transport for Trauma Patients May Be Helpful

Sperry and others concluded that in injured patients at risk for hemorrhagic shock, the prehospital administration of thawed plasma was safe and resulted in lower 30-day mortality and a lower median prothrombin-time ratio than standard-care resuscitation. Read the article in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#).

In related news, Moore and others concluded that “during rapid ground rescue to an urban level 1 trauma centre, use of prehospital plasma was not associated with survival benefit. Blood products might be beneficial in settings with longer transport times, but the financial burden would not be justified in an urban environment with short distances to mature trauma centres.” Read more in the [Lancet](#).

48. Increasing Tolerance of Hospital Enterococcus faecium to Handwash Alcohols

Alcohol-based disinfectants are a key way to control hospital infections worldwide. Pidot and others now show that the multidrug-resistant bacterium Enterococcus faecium has become increasingly tolerant to the alcohols in widely used hospital disinfectants such as hand rub solutions. These findings may help explain the recent increase in this pathogen in hospital settings.

A global response to *E. faecium* will need to include consideration of its adaptive responses not only to antibiotics but also to alcohols and the other active agents in disinfectant solutions that have become so critical for effective infection control. Authors of a new study warn that these strains have "the potential to undermine the effectiveness of alcohol-based disinfectant standard precautions and may, in part, explain the increase in VRE infection that is now widely reported in hospitals in Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Australia." [Read more.](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Send calendar events to krobinson@asmii.net

Please use these links to access monthly course schedules and registration info related to:

- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 1](#)
- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 2](#)
- [CAAHEP Accreditation Update & Evaluating Student Competency Workshops](#)
- [NAEMSE/NREMT Regional Scenario Development Workshops](#)

National Conferences and Special Meetings

[American Ambulance Association Annual Meeting](#)

September 6-8, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV

[Improving Care to Prevent Suicide Among People with Serious Mental Illness](#)

September 11-2, 2018 at the The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine in Washington, DC

[NASEMSO Western Plains Region Meeting](#)

Sept. 17-19, 2018 in Denver, CO

[Emergency Nurses Association Annual Meeting](#)

September 26-29, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA

[American College of Emergency Physicians Annual Meeting](#)

October 1-4, 2018 in San Diego, CA

[NASEMSO East Region Meeting](#)

Oct. 2, 2018 in Atlantic City, NJ

[NASEMSO West Region Meeting](#)

Oct. 2-4, 2018 in Boise, ID

[American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress](#)

October 21-25, 2018 in Boston, MA

[IAEM Annual Conference and EMEX 2018](#)

October 21-24, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI

[Air Medical Transport Conference](#)

October 22-24, 2018 in Phoenix, AZ

[Hale Borealis Forum](#)

October 23-25, 2018 in Anchorage, AK

The Hale Borealis Forum is a two and a half day conference that brings together healthcare, EMS, emergency management, law enforcement, and other critical stakeholders from rural communities from across the country, with a focus on public health and medical emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. Learn through partnerships how to ensure your rural community healthcare system is resilient to public health and medical emergencies and disasters.

[EMS World Expo](#)

October 29 - Nov 2, 2018 in Nashville, TN

[NASEMSO South Region Meeting](#)

Nov. 5-6, 2018 in Destin, FL

See more EMS Events on the [NASEMSO Calendar](#).

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Your input to Washington Update is welcome and can be sent directly to our Editor:

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