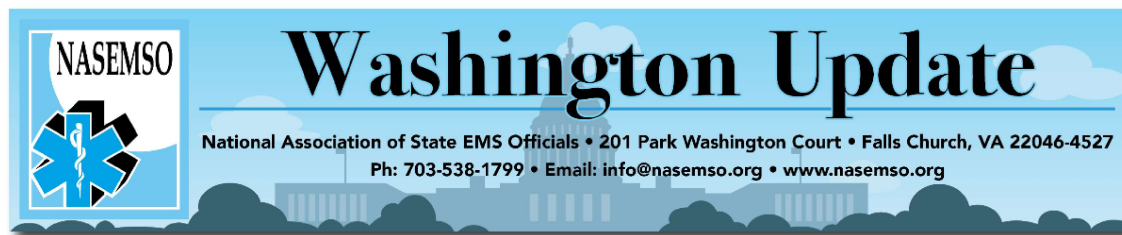


[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Forward to a friend](#)[View in browser](#)

May 2022

Download at nasemso.org/news-events/washington-update/

Don't wait for a colleague to forward Washington Update! To direct subscribe, please click [here](#).

Contents

[NASEMSO News](#)

- Happy EMS Week and National EMS Recognition Day!!
- Early Bird Rates for NASEMSO Annual Meeting Expire June 1

[For The States](#)

- FSMB Adopts Misinformation Policy
- NCSL Offers EMS Legislative Database
- CDC Seeks Nominees for CPSTF

[Communications](#)

- NHTSA Names New NG911 Coordinator

[Air Medical](#)

- Last Days to Comment on 12th Edition CAMTS Standards
- HHS Requests Hold on Surprise Billing Appeal

[Data](#)

- Save The Date
- Financial Assistance for State and Territory EMS Data Managers

[Health and Medical Preparedness](#)

- DHS Announces \$1.6 Billion in Preparedness Grants
- USFA/NHTSA Partnership Highlights Civil Unrest Resources

[Trauma](#)

- VRC Offers Updated Version of Optimal Resources Standards
- Field Trauma Triage Guidelines UPDATED and Now Available

[Pediatric Emergency Care](#)

- EMSC Day Webinar on Pediatric Behavioral Health Available
- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Pediatric ED Utilization for Head Injuries

[Federal News](#)

- FDA Recommends Conservation Strategies for Prefilled Saline Flush Syringes
- SAMHSA's 988 Website Goes Live
- OSHA Proposes to Amend Workplace Regulation Recordkeeping
- NHTSA Seeks Input on HSGP
- US Experiences Highest Number of Drug Overdose Deaths in 2021
- CDC Vital Signs Report Shows Increased Firearm Deaths, Widening Disparities
- PSNet Commentary Reflects on Importance of Words Used to Describe Patients

[Interesting Reading](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Contact NASEMSO](#)

NASEMSO News

Happy EMS Week and National EMS Recognition Day!!

More than ever, your dedication to your communities is apparent in everything you do! EMS systems across the nation have risen to the challenge of a global pandemic, natural and manmade disasters, and the 24/7/365 needs of our citizens and visitors. Today, we shine a bright and grateful light on the 1,052,842 emergency responders providing more than 40 million EMS responses annually. We especially appreciate our state and federal regulatory colleagues, EMS educators, researchers, and industry partners, all key components of a comprehensive system.

The NASEMSO Board of Directors and staff salutes your efforts today, National EMS Recognition Day, and every day! Thank you for your service!

Early Bird Rates for NASEMSO Annual Meeting Expire June 1

Don't forget to register for the NASEMSO Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC, June 19-23, 2022. A robust agenda is planned throughout the week with fun activities to include a celebration of NASEMSO's 40th Anniversary!! All the information you need is available at <https://nasemso.org/news-events/meetings/>.

[Return to top ^](#)

For The States

FSMB Adopts Misinformation Policy

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) approved a [medical misinformation and disinformation](#) policy at its annual meeting in New Orleans last weekend. The guidance, written by FSMB's Ethics and Professionalism Committee, provides recommendations both for state medical boards when drafting their own policies, and for licensees regarding best practices. Read more at https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/98562?xid=nl_mpt_DHE_2022-05-05.

NCSL Offers EMS Legislative Database

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has launched a new [Emergency Medical Services Legislative Database](#) to track enacted state actions on a variety of topics. The easy-to-navigate database currently features 2021 legislation and will be updated regularly with legislation from 2022 sessions and beyond. You can search legislation by year, state, topic, keyword, year, status or primary sponsor. New legislation is added weekly by NCSL staff.

CDC Seeks Nominees for CPSTF

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is soliciting nominations for appointment of individuals qualified to serve as new members of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF). New CPSTF members will serve a five-year term starting in either 2023 or 2024. For efficiency and to reduce the burden on the public, CDC is soliciting nominations to fill vacancies on the CPSTF anticipated for both calendar years 2023 and 2024. The deadline for nominations is June 24, 2022. Read more at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/05/02/2022-09368/solicitation-of-nominations-for-appointment-as-members-of-the-community-preventive-services-task>.

Communications

NHTSA Names New NG911 Coordinator

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Emergency Medical Services announced today that Brian Tegtmeyer, ENP (Emergency Number Professional) will assume the role of National 911 Program Coordinator effective May 9, 2022.

Mr. Tegtmeyer brings more than 26 years of experience in the field of public safety communications to the position. Read more about the NG911 program at <https://www.911.gov/>.

Air Medical

Last days to Comment on 12th Edition CAMTS Standards

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) is accepting final comments and suggestions for the 12th Edition of the CAMTS Standards. The final draft of the 12th Edition is posted on the CAMTS website with proposed changes highlighted. Be sure to reference the standard number or the attachment in your comment(s). Comments can be submitted using the 12th Edition Standards Comments and Change form (<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/PXhSvIb4n277jd>) found on the CAMTS website (camts.org). The tentative publication date for the 12th Edition Standards is October 2022.

HHS Requests Hold on Surprise Billing Appeal

Medical associations are encouraged by the federal government's request for a "hold" on its appeal of a [Texas federal court ruling](#) vacating parts of the independent dispute resolution (IDR) process in the Surprise Billing Interim Final Rule. The government filed the last-minute appeal April 22, but later asked the court to hold its appeal pending federal agencies' release of the surprise billing final rule this summer. On May 3, 2022, the court granted the government's request to pause proceedings while the government issues a final rule. Read more at <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/in-latest-twist-government-requests-texas-court-place-hold-on-its-surprise-billing-appeal-301540961.html>.

Data

Save the Date

The NEMSIS Annual v3 Implementation Meeting and Data Managers' Boot Camp will be on August 21st – 23rd, 2022. The meeting registration portal and agenda will be posted soon at: <https://nemsis.org/2022-nemsis-annual-meeting-and-boot-camp/>. Please send any topics or issues you would like addressed during the meeting to Julianne Ehlers (Julianne.ehlers@hsc.utah.edu).

Financial Assistance for State and Territory EMS Data Managers

The NEMSIS TAC and NHTSA's OEMS have allocated financial assistance for state and territory EMS data managers to attend the NEMSIS Annual Meeting in person. As states and territories prepare to transition to version 3.5, it is important that your voices are heard, and you have a seat at the table. The funding is limited, and applications should be submitted to the TAC staff as soon as possible. Please contact Monet Iheanacho (Monet.Iheanacho@hsc.utah.edu) or Lauri Bradt (Lauri.Bradt@hsc.utah.edu) with questions related to the meeting or financial assistance.

Health and Medical Preparedness

DHS Announces \$1.6 Billion in Preparedness Grants

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas recently announced \$1.6 billion for eight Fiscal Year 2022 preparedness grant programs. Together, these programs provide critical funding to help state and local officials prepare for, prevent, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism and other hazards. This funding is in addition to the \$405.1 million announced last month for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. Read more at <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/05/13/dhs-announces-16-billion-preparedness-grants>.

USFA/NHTSA Partnership Highlights Civil Unrest Resources

Civil unrest may occur as a period of social upheaval during heightened community tension or at mass gatherings such as sporting events, concerts and political conventions. The safety risk for fire and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel responding to these fluid incidents may be elevated. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of Emergency Medical Services worked together to compile these best practices to assist you with your response to civil unrest incidents in your community. Fire and EMS personnel should follow the general guidance in this section to prepare personnel, the station, apparatus and the community for emergency response in a challenging environment. Read more at https://www.usfa.fema.gov/operations/civil_unrest/.

HHS Offers New Clinical Implementation Guide on COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics

COVID-19 outpatient therapeutics can be used to prevent or treat eligible non-hospitalized patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have mild to moderate symptoms. Prevention and early treatment for eligible patients can help improve patient outcomes, reduce stress on healthcare facilities, and even save lives. HHS/ASPR has purchased supplies of COVID-19 therapeutic products and is working with state and territorial health departments as well as national healthcare and medical organizations and associations to get the treatments into the hands of healthcare providers quickly, with a focus on areas of the country hardest hit by the pandemic. A new Clinical Implementation Guide summarizes key information on COVID-19 outpatient therapeutics and aims to support healthcare providers' understanding of these therapies and how to implement their administration. Read more at <https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Documents/USG-COVID19-Tx-Playbook.pdf>

[^ Return to top](#)

Trauma

VRC Offers Updated Version of Optimal Resources Standards

The American College of Surgeons Verification Review and Consultation (VRC) Program has posted the highly anticipated 2022 standards. These standards detail the principles regarding resources, performance improvement patient safety processes, data collection, protocols, research, and education for a trauma center. The VRC program evaluates the care, aligned to the standards and expected scope of practice at each institution. These standards will be effective for verification/reverification visits starting September 2023 and consultation visits starting February 2023. Read more at <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/tqp/center-programs/vrc/standards>.

Field Trauma Triage Guidelines UPDATED and Now Available

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) has released an update of the Field Trauma Triage Guidelines (FTTG) for use by clinicians nationwide. The guidelines, in use since the late 1980s, provide evidence-based criteria in making care and transport decisions for patients with traumatic injuries in the prehospital setting. Read more at <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/systems/field-triage>

[^ Return to top](#)

[Pediatric Emergency Care](#)

EMSC Webinar on Pediatric Behavioral Health Available

As EMS Week draws to a close, the Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIIC) pays special attention to prehospital practitioners' commitment to caring for acutely ill and injured children. This year, in recognition of both the rising incidence of behavioral health emergencies in children and the need to recognize and mitigate secondary trauma in the EMS professional, the EIIIC hosted a free 1-hour webinar, "COPE-ing with the Challenges of Pediatric Behavioral and Mental Health Emergencies." This webinar explored both prehospital behavioral health emergency management and introduced the *Compassionate Options for Pediatric EMS* or "COPE" program that provides debriefing tools for EMS after challenging pediatric calls. The webinar was recorded and is available at <https://emscimprovement.center/domains/prehospital-care/ems-week/webinars/>.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic On Pediatric ED Utilization For Head Injuries

Head injuries are a leading cause of death and disability in children, accounting for numerous emergency department visits. The proportion of ED visits and hospitalizations for head injury increased during the COVID-19 era. This could be due to changes in the level of supervision and risk exposures in the home that occurred during the pandemic, as well as differences in post-injury care, level of awareness regarding injury severity, and threshold for seeking care, all of which may have influenced pediatric healthcare utilization for head injuries. Read more at <https://jim.bmj.com/content/early/2022/05/11/jim-2021-002292>.

[^ Return to top](#)

[Federal News](#)

FDA Recommends Conservation Strategies for Prefilled Saline Flush Syringes

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is aware the United States is experiencing interruptions in the supply of prefilled 0.9% sodium chloride (saline) intravenous (IV) lock/ flush syringes. Prefilled 0.9% sodium chloride IV lock/ flush syringes are in shortage because of an increase in demand during the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as recent vendor supply chain challenges, including the permanent discontinuance of certain prefilled saline lock/ flush syringes. Conservation strategies are offered at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/prefilled-saline-flush-syringe-conservation-strategies-letter-health-care-personnel>.

SAMHSA's 988 Website Goes Live

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has gone live with its new 988 website — available at samhsa.gov/988. The 988 website provides SAMHSA 988 resources, including a 988-partner toolkit. The toolkit is intended for partners to provide [key messages](#), [FAQs](#), and information about what 988 is and how it will work. Additional information is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline>.

OSHA Proposes to Amend Workplace Regulation Recordkeeping

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The deadline for written comments is May 23, 2022. The Docket number is [NHTSA-2022-0036](#). Read more at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/04/21/2022-08484/uniform-procedures-for-state-highway-safety-grant-programs>.

US Experiences Highest Number of Drug Overdose Deaths in 2021

According to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 107,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2021, a 15 percent increase from the previous year and a record high for the U.S. More than 80,000 people died using opioids, and deaths from methamphetamine and cocaine also rose. Evidence suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic and response exacerbated challenges associated with the ongoing substance use crisis, contributing to increased overdose deaths. NACCHO continues to engage with federal policymakers on how to address the substance use and overdose crisis. Read more at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>.

CDC Vital Signs Report Shows Increased Firearm Deaths, Widening Disparities

A CDC Vital Signs report released this week showed firearm deaths continue to be a significant and growing public health problem in the U.S., with over 79% of homicides and 53% of suicides involving firearms. From 2019 to 2020, the firearm homicide rate increased about 35% and was the highest rate recorded in over 25 years. Notably, the data showed widening disparities in firearm deaths. For example, the largest increase in firearm homicides was among Black people, and the largest increase in firearm suicides was among American Indian and Alaska Native people. Additionally, counties with the highest poverty levels had firearm homicide rates 4.5 times as high and firearm suicide rates 1.3 times as high as counties with the lowest poverty level. The CDC explained that the reasons for increasing rates and widening disparities are likely complex, and that multiple stressors associated with COVID-19 may have contributed to the increases. Read more at <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/firearm-deaths/>.

PSNet Commentary Reflects on Importance of Words Used to Describe Patients

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) maintains several resources to improve patient safety. In a recent post, the agency notes, "As more patients are gaining [access](#) to their electronic health records, including clinician notes, the language clinicians use can shape how patients feel about their health and healthcare [provider](#). This commentary describes how some words and phrases routinely used in provider notes, such as "deny" or "non-compliant", may inadvertently build distrust with the patient. The authors recommend medical students and providers reconsider their language to establish more trusting relationships with their patients." Read "Presenting complaint: use of language that disempowers patients" at <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/presenting-complaint-use-language-disempowers-patients>.

AHRQ Issue Brief Focuses on Improving Diagnostic Competencies

Research studies over the past two decades have shown how diagnostic errors can be prevented or mitigated, and these lessons should become part of healthcare professionals' education and training. While individual, professional, contextual, patient, and health system factors make diagnostic error a challenge to address, health professions education is a common experience for all healthcare professionals and is foundational in improving diagnosis. In a new Issue Brief funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), authors provide several recommendations to enhance healthcare professional education. Read more at [here](#).

[^ Return to top](#)

[Interesting Reading](#)

US Nurse Shortage Could Reach 450K by 2025

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

While we do not directly address rapid evolutions in healthcare productivity in this article, we acknowledge it may affect the nursing shortage. These may include evolution in allocation of care team members to ensure constrained nurse time is focused on things they are uniquely qualified for (for example, medication administration or physical assessment), technology-enabled productivity tools, or alternative sites of care settings for patients to receive care. These advances may have a substantial impact in the long term, but our experience suggests these measures may have limited impact over the next three years.” Read more at [here](#).

Time to Antiarrhythmic and Association with Return of Spontaneous Circulation in the United States

Based on NEMSIS data, cardiac patients receive “first dose” anti-arrhythmic drugs more than 19 minutes after the initial 9-1-1 call. Longer time to administration in patients with an initial shockable rhythm was associated with decreased ROSC rates. Access the article here: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10903127.2022.2044416>

Despair and resilience in the U.S.: Did the COVID pandemic worsen mental health outcomes?

NEMSIS data was used in a study published by the Brookings Institution to compare trends in EMS calls in 2019 and 2020 related to suicide, drug overdoses, mental and behavioral health, and gun violence. Researchers concluded that gun violence and opioid overdose calls increased after lockdowns during the pandemic, but suicide-related calls decreased. Access the article here: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Despair-and-Resilience.pdf>

Medication Errors Paper

Lara D. Rappaport, Geoffrey Markowitz, Steven Hulac & Genie Roosevelt (2022): **Medication Errors in Pediatric Patients after Implementation of a Field Guide with Volume- Based Dosing**, Prehospital Emergency Care, DOI: 10.1080/10903127.2022.2025962. Read more at [here](#).

An assessment of the non-fatal crash risks associated with substance use during rush and non-rush hour periods in the United States

Using NEMSIS data, researchers conclude that substance use during rush hour traffic doubled the odds of a critical injury in a motor vehicle crash. Alcohol and illicit drugs were identified in about 10% of non-fatal crash injuries and were associated with a two-fold increase in the odds of sustaining a critical injury. Access the article here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2022.109386>

A Geospatial Evaluation of 9-1-1 Ambulance Transports for Children and Emergency Department Pediatric Readiness

NEMSIS data was used in a study to quantify the number of children transported by 9-1-1 emergency medical services (EMS) to high-readiness EDs, additional children within 30 minutes of a high-readiness ED, and the estimated effect on survival. Access the article here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10903127.2022.2064020>

[Calendar](#)

JUNE

Accreditcon. June 1-5, 2022. Louisville, KY. <https://www.accreditcon.org>

Subscribe**Past Issues****Translate ▼**

NFPA Annual Conference. June 6-9, 2022. Boston, MA. <https://www.nfpa.org/conference/>

JULY

Fire Rescue Med. July 12, 2022. VIRTUAL. <https://www.iafc.org/events/frm>

National EMS Memorial Service, July 22-24, 2022. Arlington, VA. <http://www.national-ems-memorial.org>

Pinnacle 2022. July 25-29, 2022. Marco Island, FL. <http://pinnacle-ems.com/>

AUGUST

National Association of EMS Educators Annual Meeting. August 2-7, 2022. Louisville, KY. www.naemse.org

NEMSIS Annual Meeting for August 21-23, 2022 at the Deer Valley Resort in Park City, Utah

IAFC Annual Conference. Fire-Rescue International. August 24-26, 2022. San Antonio, TX. www.iafc.org/fri

SEPTEMBER

American Ambulance Association Annual Meeting. September 18 - 20, 2022. Nashville, TN. <https://annual.ambulance.org/>

Emergency Nurses Association Annual Meeting. September 30 – October 3, 2022. Denver, CO.. <https://www.ena.org/events/emergency-nursing-2022>

OCTOBER

American College of Emergency Physicians Annual Meeting. October 1 - 4, 2022. San Francisco, CA. <https://www.acep.org/sa>

EMS World Expo. October 10-14, 2022. Orlando, FL <http://www.emsworldexpo.com/>

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. October 16-20, 2022. San Diego, CA. <https://www.facs.org/clincon2022>

EMS PRO Expo 2022. October 26-29, 2022. Mashantucket, CT. <https://emspro.org/>

NOVEMBER

16th Annual Tacoma Trauma Virtual Conference November 4, 2022
<https://www.tacomatrauma.org/>

Elevate 2022 (formerly Air Medical Transport Conference.) October 24 – 26, 2022. Tampa, FL. <https://aams.org/page/Elevate2022>

IAEM EMEX 2022. November 2022. Savannah, GA. www.iaem.com

DECEMBER

TQIP Annual Conference, December 11-13, 2022. Phoenix, AZ. <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/tqp/center-programs/tqip/conference>

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

- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 1](#)
- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 2](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

NinthBrain

LIMITED.
EMS SOFTWARE☐ Education☐ QI Tracking

Download PDF



Subscribe here

[Website](#)[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[Email](#)

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

Kathy Robinson, RN, EMT-P, QAS

National Association of State EMS Officials
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046
Email: robinson@nasemso.org
Phone: 703.538.1799 Ext. 1894

CONTACT NASEMSO STAFF

Elizabeth Armstrong
(Management Counsel)
armstrong@nasemso.org

Dia Gainor (Executive Director)
dia@nasemso.org

Sharon Kelly (Executive Assistant)
kelly@nasemso.org

Rachael Alter (Program Manager)
Data, Pediatrics, Contracts
alter@nasemso.org

Mary Hedges (Program Manager)
Medical Directors, HITS,
Safe Transport of Children
hedges@nasemso.org

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Education
robinson@nasemso.org

Hannah Degn
(Project Coordinator)
hannah@nasemso.org

stein-spencer@nasemso.org

Kevin McGinnis (Program Manager)
Communications, CP-MIH, HIE,
Rural EMS, Personnel Licensure
mcginnis@nasemso.org

Sue Prentiss (Program Manager)
Agency & Vehicle Licensure
prentiss@nasemso.org

The material contained in this newsletter is for informational purposes only. NASEMSO does not support, endorse, or recommend any position, product, or service unless explicitly stated.

The Washington Update is produced by the National Association of State EMS Officials. Feel free to [share](#) this publication with your colleagues. To subscribe to receive the *Washington Update* by e-mail, please click [here](#). View archived issues [here](#).

[Return to top ^](#)

Copyright © 2022 National Association of State EMS Officials, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

