



## NASEMSO Government Information Committee

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### MEETING RECORD

May 15, 2018

3:00 PM EDT

**Attending** – Paul Patrick (UT), Dr. Peter Taillac (UT), Juliet Altenburg (PA), Dr. Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP), Rich Wiznewski (SC), Carolina Roberts-Santana (RI), Andy Gienapp (WY), Suzanne Prentiss (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

**Call to Order / Call Roll / Approve Agenda** – Paul Patrick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

**Review and Approve March 20th Meeting Minutes (attached)** –Moved by Sahni, Seconded by Altenburg. Approved as submitted.

**NAEMSP Legislative Update** – Dr. Ritu Sahni reported April was busy in terms of advocacy. EMS Day on the Hill was held and NAEMSP conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Government Relations Academy, which grows every year. PAHPA is up for reauthorization this year. They met with the official at the FDA who is in charge of the drug shortage program, Valerie Jensen. The FDA was unaware of how much EMS is affected by drug shortages. During EMS on the Hill, Dr. Brent Meyers met with ASPR Secretary Kadlec about drug shortages. They addressed drug shortages as an emergency preparedness issue. They discussed addressing it through PAHPA by focusing on emergency medications. The drug stockpile was moved from CDC to ASPR, as it was languishing. Legislators and their staff were surprised about the extent of daily meds used by EMS are on the shortage list.

NAEMSP Political Action Committee (PAC) – Ritu said they raised over \$60,000 during their first call for their EMS PAC. They made their first donations to Rep. Hudson, Rep. Butterfield, and Rep. Ruiz (an emergency physician).

#### **Air Medical “Balance Billing” Legislation**

SB 2231, became law in North Dakota in April, 2017. After previous legislative attempts were ruled unconstitutional, the state enacted a law requiring hospitals to notify patients in non-emergency situations which air ambulance providers have a contractual agreement with the patient’s health insurance company; also prohibits subscription services certain air ambulance services sold to counties to prevent “balance billing” for patients for out-of-network air transports. See <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0231-03000.pdf> We have not heard any follow up to the outcome of this new law. Paul Patrick said Utah has taken a different approach. Dr. Taillac explained that Utah is in the process of promulgating the model air medical rule developed by NASEMSO’s Air Medical Committee. In addition, they provide all air ambulance bills to the legislature who in turn publishes the amounts charged by air medical providers.

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We have not heard anything further about reported efforts by the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) and Association of Critical Care Transport (ACCT) to combine their 2017 bills H.R. 3378 and H.R. 3780 into one bill in order for the legislation to have a chance at passing the 2017-18 Congress. See <http://nasemso.org/Projects/Legislative-Regulatory-Issues.asp>

Andy Gienapp said the Wyoming Legislature decided to conduct a study on the air medical issue (balance billing), as this topic has not gone away.

*New – both items on the Air Medical Committee agenda for Providence*

Air Ambulance Consumer Protection Act (attached, no bill number yet) - Senator McCaskill has introduced a bill that would exclude air ambulances from the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA).

HB 4, FAA Reauthorization - passed the House and is in the Senate; includes a provision that would empower states to regulate air ambulances (relevant part attached).

**Society of Trauma Nurses** - Juliet Altenburg (PA) said the Society of Trauma Nurses has nearly completed its Stop the Bleed webinar. She is checking to see if it will be open to others outside of their organization.

#### State Legislation Roundtable – All

- Wyoming - Andy Gienapp reported that Wyoming determined which interim topics it will address, and healthcare was involved with a number of them.
- Oregon - Ritu reported that the AHA is going to make another attempt at developing stroke and STEMI systems in Oregon. He lamented that they could not convince the hospital association to support it. They are also trying to find a way to enshrine the CARES system, which is now dependent on grant funding. Peter Taillac offered to share Utah's example. They had support from the state's AHA and requested funding to support this as well as a cardiac registry (CARES).
- REPLICA – Sue Prentiss said that Nebraska recently became REPLICA state #13. In South Carolina they are awaiting the Governor's signature. New Hampshire is still struggling with the bill. REPLICA is still in play in Missouri (the 3<sup>rd</sup> try for that state). They are working on a bill in Maine, ND, Iowa and Wisconsin.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM EDT.

**Next Meeting** – July 17, 2018

*The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.*

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