

NASEMSO NATIONAL MODEL EMS CLINICAL GUIDELINES Initiatives for Future Development and Growth

The NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines, a 2-year project graciously funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), were released in October 2014. The document fulfills the 2007 Institute of Medicine recommendation for the development of “evidence-based model prehospital protocols for the treatment, triage, and transport of patients” in partnership with professional organizations and by a panel of individuals with multidisciplinary expertise.

The purpose of the guidelines is to serve as a valuable resource to the EMS community, to support state EMS offices that desire a more standardized approach to patient care, and to encompass evidence-based guidelines as they are developed. Analogous to dynamic nature of prehospital patient care protocols, the ongoing value of the NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines is hinged upon maintaining currency of the inaugural document’s contents and the incorporation of additional guidelines and evidence-based patient care measures in future editions.

In an effort to achieve this goal, Dr. Carol Cunningham and Dr. Richard Kamin, the project co-principal investigators, propose the following recommendations for consideration by the NASEMSO Board of Directors. The most critical project needs that have been identified are the creation of a NASEMSO-based interactive website for enhanced engagement with our EMS community and a data repository.

Workgroup Structure

- Create a core workgroup comprised of members of the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council to perform periodic updates of the document to maintain currency. The members of the workgroup would include Council members who were part of the initial project team that volunteer to continue with the project and interested Council members who wish to join the project.

- Formal liaison with a designated representative from each of the NASEMSO councils
- Continued engagement with Susan McHenry as the project liaison for NHTSA or an equivalent designee determined by the NHTSA
- Continued engagement with a designated project liaison for additional federal or governmental agencies providing funding support to the project
- Continued contractual agreement with Mary Hedges as the project program manager or an equivalent designee determined by the NASEMSO Executive Director or the NASEMSO Board of Directors
- Continued contractual agreement with Kevin McGinnis as the project technical writer or an equivalent designee selected by the NASEMSO Executive Director or the NASEMSO Board of Directors
- Engagement with designated representatives of the professional organizations that participated in the creation of the inaugural document as deemed necessary by the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council core workgroup for minor updates and formally for major revisions of the document
- Engagement of topic-specific individuals with expertise and/or stakeholder organizations as deemed necessary by the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council core workgroup or the NASEMSO Board of Directors
- Engagement with technical reviewers as deemed necessary by the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council core workgroup and selected by the project co-principal investigators

Data Collection

- Creation of a digital avenue to collate the number of EMS agencies that have accessed the NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines
- Creation of a repository to accurately collate the number of EMS agencies who have adopted the NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines or have adopted them as a foundation for their prehospital patient care protocols
- Creation of a digital avenue to reassess the EMS agencies that adopted or used the NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines to collate their level of ongoing utilization of the document at the 1-year, 5-year, and 10-

year timelines. The data collected should also include any factors that have caused them to fully or partially divert their EMS protocols from the Guidelines.

- Creation of a digital avenue to collate the number of EMS partners (software vendors, publishers, education institutions, medical facilities and equipment manufacturers, etc.) that have access to the NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines
- Creation of a digital avenue to note the EMS partners who have incorporated the Guidelines into their product or utilized the Guidelines to impact their operations or procedures
- Creation of a digital repository for the EMS community to submit EMS research or literature (domestic and international) that the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council project workgroup can consider during the update of current guidelines or the creation of additional guidelines (*The process that the American Board of Emergency Medicine has adopted to generate their Lifelong Learning and Self Assessment (LLSA) literature reading list is an excellent model to consider.*)

EMS Community Engagement

- Creation of a designated and maintained central repository of existing state EMS patient care protocol or guidelines documents that is accessible via the NASEMSO website
- Creation of a digital forum for the EMS community to interact, discuss, and share their experiences regarding the NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines including implementation, education, and quality assurance processes and challenges
- Create a digital avenue for the EMS community to communicate their evidence-based guideline needs and desires to the NASEMSO project team
- Engagement of the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council workgroup with the proposed National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) Consortium on Evidence-Based Guidelines to share resources and to minimize duplication of efforts, potential conflicts, and mutual administrative financial expenditures

- Creation of a digital repository for members of the EMS community to submit implemented or proposed prehospital protocols for the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council core workgroup to review for potential update and/or inclusion in future guideline development

Guideline Maintenance and Update Process

- Complete a full review of all existing guidelines for currency every 1-2 years by the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council core workgroup
- Incorporation of new evidence-based guidelines into the document contemporarily by the core workgroup as they become available
- Update current guidelines contemporarily by the core workgroup for alignment with nationally accepted patient care recommendations, e.g. new American Heart Association's Emergency Cardiac Care guidelines
- Creation of additional consensus-based guidelines to meet the needs of patients, state EMS offices, and the EMS community as deemed necessary by the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council or at the request of the NASEMSO Board of Directors
- Utilize data and reports from the NASEMSO data repository and the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) to identify patient care measures or potential gaps where the EMS community may benefit from standardized evidence-based or consensus-based guidelines
- Continue to pair the guidelines with the NEMSIS dataset identifiers when feasible
- Continue public comment periods for all updates to the document to elicit input from the EMS community and to remain compliant with the spirit of transparency and partnership recommended by the Institute of Medicine in 2007 in reference to this project

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these recommendations.

Best regards,

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Co-Principal Investigator

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