



Washington Update

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September 15, 2010

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<http://www.ready.gov/america/npm10/index.html>

1. NASEMSO Annual Meeting Draws Near—Register Now!!

Attendees to the 2010 NASEMSO Annual Meeting are encouraged to check often for agenda, exhibitor, and sponsor updates on the NASEMSO web site and to be aware that rooms at the NASEMSO rate will likely sell out before the September 21 deadline. FEMA Deputy Director Rich Serino will deliver the keynote address, entitled “The Role of EMS in National Preparedness” and DHS Chief Medical Officer and Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Dr. Alexander Garza will also address the conference. Members will not want to miss the overview of new NASEMSO projects as well as updates on EMS safety, regionalization, NG 9-1-1, field triage, critical care transport, NFPA ambulance standards, EMS lessons learned from the H1N1 pandemic and the “Miracle on the Hudson,” NIMS Resource Typing for EMS, NEMSIS, community paramedicine, and much, much more! More information is available at www.nasemso.org.

2. NASEMSO Nominates McGinnis to FCC Public Safety Advisory Committee

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) is seeking nominations and expressions of interest for membership on the Emergency Response Interoperability Center Public Safety Advisory Committee (Committee). The purpose of this Committee is to make recommendations that will assist the Commission’s Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC), an entity established within the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, in the development of a technical framework and requirements for interoperability in order to ensure that the public safety wireless broadband network is interoperable on a nationwide basis. NASEMSO has nominated Program Advisor Kevin McGinnis to the Committee which has been established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA.) The deadline for nominations is September 17, 2010.

3. NASEMSO Welcomes NAEMSE Representative to Education Agenda I-Team

NASEMSO is pleased to announce the addition of Terry DeVito to the EMS Education Agenda Implementation Team (I-Team) as a representative for the National Association of EMS Educators. Terry is a Professor and Coordinator for EMS Education at the Capital Community College in Hartford, CT. She recently conducted a NASEMSO webinar on standards based instruction that was widely acclaimed and she will be responsible for coordinating NAEMSE activities related to Education Agenda implementation. NASEMSO welcomes Dr. DeVito to this important effort!!

4. Plain Language FAQs Now Supplement Transition Guide

Agencies across the country are increasingly adopting plain language. The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and many of the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP) include plain language milestones and initiatives. The case for plain language continues to advance as more and more agencies eliminate or minimize the use of coded language. At the same time, work remains to be done, such as addressing cultural issues, engaging leadership, and communicating about plain language successes. The *Plain Language Guide: Making the Transition from 10 Codes to Plain Language* was released in July 2008 and is

available for download [here](#). In April 2009, the Plain Language Working Group (PLWG) comprised of over 40 multidisciplinary stakeholders from across the country began work on an update to the Plain Language Guide. Specifically the PLWG was asked to identify additional lessons learned and smart practices related to plain language. The result of the PLWG's efforts is now available as the [Plain Language Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) guidance document.

5. NEMSIS TAC Provides Public-Release Research Dataset

Staff at the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) are pleased to announce the release of the 2009 NEMSIS Public-Release Research Dataset! This dataset includes more than six million EMS events reported to the NEMSIS TAC by 26 states during the 2009 calendar year. The Dataset may be used for informational and research purposes with approval from The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The NEMSIS Public-Release Research Dataset does not contain information that identifies patients, EMS agencies, receiving hospitals, or reporting states. To obtain a DVD containing the 2009 NEMSIS Public-Release Research Dataset, visit the NEMSIS web site at: <http://www.nemsis.org/dataCenter/requestNEMSISData.html> and complete a request form. A Data Users Manual associated with the NEMSIS Public-Release Research Dataset is also available at the same link.

6. Review Calls for New Federal Approach to Medical Countermeasures

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently released an examination of the federal government's system to produce medications, vaccines, equipment and supplies needed for a health emergency. *The Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise Review: Transforming the Enterprise to Meet Long Range National Needs* reviews the process and makes recommendations for a better approach. Secretary Sebelius requested the comprehensive review when the department encountered challenges with the 2009 H1N1 pandemic flu vaccine, highlighting the need for a modernized countermeasure production process. The review covered the steps involved in the research, development, and FDA approval of medications, vaccines, and medical equipment and supplies for a health emergency. [For more information...](#)

7. HHS Unveils New ESAR-VHP Web Site

The Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) is a federal program created to support states and territories in establishing standardized volunteer registration programs for disasters and public health and medical emergencies. The program, administered on the state level, verifies health professionals' identification and credentials so individuals can respond more quickly when disaster strikes. Formerly under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), ESAR-VHP is now administered by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The program encourages healthcare personnel (including EMS) to register in advance so that credentials and qualifications can be verified, enabling practitioners to serve on a moment's notice — within state and across state lines. The new web site, with FAQs and state-by-state registration assistance is now available at <http://www.phe.gov/esarvhp/Pages/default.aspx>.

8. COCA Calls Focus on Range of Preparedness Topics

Missed a COCA topic you really wanted to hear?? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention archives Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Calls and several are of interest to the EMS community. Interested persons can download audio files, transcripts, related resources, and powerpoint presentations [here](#). While it usually takes a few weeks to include new materials, recent topics include Large Scale Disaster--Alternative Care Systems and Crisis Standards of Care, HHS/CDC Update: 2010-11 Flu Season and Universal Vaccine

Recommendations, Opioid Analgesics: The Epidemiology of Misuse and Advice on Prescribing, and Bombings: Injury Patterns and Care. CE credit is available.

9. Swine as Intermediate Hosts for H5N1 (Avian Influenza) Provides Implications for Future

Swine have long been considered potential intermediate hosts in which avian influenza viruses can adapt to humans. To determine whether this potential exists for swine in Indonesia, a study conducted surveillance during 2005–2009 and found that 52 swine in 4 provinces were infected during 2005–2007 but not 2008–2009. Analysis showed that the viruses had been introduced into the swine population in Indonesia on at least 3 occasions and one isolate had acquired the ability to recognize a human-type receptor. No infected swine had influenza-like symptoms, indicating that influenza A (H5N1) viruses can replicate undetected for prolonged periods, facilitating avian virus adaptation to mammalian hosts. The data suggests that swine are at risk for infection during outbreaks of influenza virus A (H5N1) and can serve as intermediate hosts in which this avian virus can adapt to mammals. For more on this study, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/16/10/PDFs/10-0508.pdf>. The WHO reports the cumulative number of confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) as of July 29, 2010 to be 504 cases with 299 deaths resulting in a case mortality rate of 59%. These figures represent the total H5N1 influenza cases since 2003.

10. FDA Approves Pediatric Use of 2-PAM

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the pediatric use of Protopam Chloride (pralidoxime chloride), a drug used to treat poisoning by organophosphate pesticides and chemicals (e.g., nerve agents). The drug is approved to be administered either by intravenous (IV) or intramuscular (IM) injections. [For more information...](#)

11. Emergency Response Publication Addresses Identification of Homemade Explosives

The Government Printing Office (GPO) announces the availability of multilingual guides to assist first responders in the identification of homemade explosive devices. The guide contains images and text describing the indicators and warnings pertaining to homemade explosives. This booklet provides a quick reference to establish an awareness level so that responders can visually recognize the materials, chemicals, and equipment associated with the manufacture of homemade explosives. The Homemade Explosives Recognition Guide will help all on-scene personnel visually assess the possibility that a situation involves the manufacture of homemade explosives. This document is not for public use, but for military, Federal, State, and local agencies as a reference for training and operations by emergency personnel in preparing for and responding to a terrorist incident. Information in this publication is general and may not reflect the most recent threats. An online reference is not available. [For more information...](#)

12. President Proposes Changes to HHS Appropriations for FY 2011

President Obama has asked Congress to consider reallocating \$400 million in proposed appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services in fiscal year 2011. The proposal would provide an additional \$250 million in funding for health workforce training enhancements, \$55 million for state high-risk health insurance pools, \$35 million for domestic HIV/AIDS prevention and research, \$30 million for state AIDS drug assistance programs, and \$30 million for health insurance consumer information. Those increases would be offset by spending reductions in other programs, **including a \$184 million decrease in funding for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public health emergency preparedness grants.** To view the letter, with the proposed changes visit [here](#).

13. Free Emergency Planning Exercises Available from FEMA

FEMA is now providing, free for your download and use, a series of Tabletop Exercise presentations as a tool to advance your organization’s continuity, preparedness and resiliency. Each exercise takes your team through a realistic disaster scenario and facilitates a discussion of how your organization would plan, protect, respond and recover. Each includes full instructor’s notes so you can gather a facilitator and a team of participants, and self-facilitate the exercise internally. **The first two exercises, for a major Hurricane and rail Chemical Accident, also feature simulated TV news videos suggesting exercise-focused local reporting of the disasters.** This feature adds a sense of realism and helps to motivate interactive discussion. The exercises typically take 2-4 hours from start to finish and can be customized where noted in the facilitator’s notes to meet your needs. [For more information...](#)

14. AEMS Highlights Veteran to EMS Transition Bill

Advocates for EMS (AEMS) has advised its members that the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy & Commerce has passed H.R. 3199, the Emergency Medic Transition (EMT) Act, out of Committee and onto the full House for its consideration. This bill would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for states to assist veterans who are trained in military emergency medicine to become state-licensed or certified emergency medical technicians. States that demonstrate that they have a shortage of emergency medical technicians can use grant funds to provide training, cover associated costs, and expedite the licensing or certification process. The grant program would be authorized at \$5 million per year for fiscal years 2011-2015. Similar legislation, S. 1154, has also been introduced in the Senate. While House Committee passage marks a positive first step, it is unclear when/if the full House and Senate will take further action.

15. Federal Register 2.0 Debuts as Web-Based Prototype

The Federal Register is the legal journal of the U.S. government and contains rules, proposed rules, and public notices of federal agencies, as well Presidential documents. The Office of the Federal Register is a component of the National Archives and Records Administration. July 26, 2010 marked the 75th anniversary of the Federal Register Act and last month, NARA launched a web-based prototype that reads more like a daily newspaper. The website, www.federalregister.gov, is divided into broad communities including: business & industry, environment, health & public welfare, money, science & technology, and world. Important documents stay on each section “above the fold.” Those documents that are most viewed, emailed, and cited appear in a “What’s Hot” feature. The development of Federal Register 2.0 used XML data and open source code. A tool bar to the right of the screen lists each agency and the number of listings for the date chosen. Readers can view archived material by changing the date on the calendar at the top of the page and link to <http://www.regulations.gov> to submit formal comments and also repost relevant listings via social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. While much easier to access and read, readers should note that Federal Register 2.0 is not the official legal reference for public notices and postings. The official version remains available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html>.

16. Legislation Addresses Loss of Emergency Personnel to Military Call Ups

Senator Blanche Lincoln (AR) has introduced legislation that would create a grant program through the Department of Homeland Security to reimburse state and local first responder agencies for any extraordinary financial burden that resulted from the deployment of one or more of their employees. Eligible reimbursable expenses include: the salary of an individual hired to replace an employee and overtime expenses for an employee performing tasks that would have been performed by the deployed employee. The grant program would reimburse public safety agencies for additional expenses incurred when a police officer, firefighter, paramedic or EMT who is in the National Guard or Reserves is deployed for active military duty. To review the legislation, S. 3719 – click [here](#).

17. CDC Provides New Fact Sheet on Flu Vaccine for Health Care Workers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has produced an informational web site, providing lists of facts and recommendations for health care workers (including EMS) concerning influenza and vaccinations.

According to “Influenza Vaccination Information for Health Care Workers”—

- CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that all health care workers get an annual flu vaccine.
- Fewer than half of health care workers report getting an annual flu vaccine.
- As a health care worker, by getting vaccinated, you can help protect your family at home as well as your patients at work from getting sick.
- Getting a yearly flu vaccine can help ensure your time off is spent doing what you want to do, not staying at home sick.

The web site provides additional information about the anticipated flu season and the current vaccine. [For more information...](#)

18. SHEA Position Paper Highlights Need for Vaccination among Healthcare Personnel

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) has updated its recommendations for vaccination among healthcare personnel (HCP.) This document serves as an update and companion piece to the 2005 SHEA Position Paper entitled “Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Workers and Vaccine Allocation for Healthcare Workers During Vaccine Shortages.” In large part, the discussion about the rationale for influenza vaccination of HCP, the strategies designed to improve influenza vaccination rates in this population, and the recommendations made in the 2005 paper still stand. This position paper notes new evidence released since publication of the 2005 paper and strengthens SHEA’s position on the importance of influenza vaccination of HCP. SHEA views influenza vaccination of HCP as a *core patient and HCP safety practice* with which noncompliance should not be tolerated. SHEA endorses a policy in which annual influenza vaccination is a condition of both initial and continued HCP employment and/or professional privileges. [For more information...](#)

19. DOT Announces Proposal to Require Seatbelts on All New Motorcoaches

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently announced a proposal that would require new motorcoaches to have lap-shoulder belts to help prevent driver and passenger ejections during a collision. The proposed rule will take effect three years after the final rule is issued. The announcement is just the latest initiative from the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve motorcoach safety. Earlier this year, the department released a Motorcoach Safety Action Plan offering concrete steps for addressing driver fatigue or inattention and improving operator maintenance. Research for improving motorcoach structure, fire safety protection and emergency egress is also under way, which could lead to recommendations for new federal standards in the future. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is seeking public comment which must be received on or before October 18, 2010. To view the new proposal, [click here](#).

20. USFA Partners with Fire Organizations to Publish Emergency Vehicle Safety Guide

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), in partnership with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), announces the release of *Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety in the Emergency Services* which highlights the results of a U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) supported initiative to enhance emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety for firefighters and law enforcement officers. Although related press releases and web sites exclusively mention fire and law

enforcement, the document itself contains multiple EMS (and ambulance-related) references which provide valid safety reminders to EMS providers. [For more information...](#)

21. NIDA and Federal Partners to Launch National Drug Facts Week

National Drug Facts Week (NDFW) is a health observance week for teens that aims to shatter the myths about drugs and drug abuse. Through community--based events and activities on the Web, on TV, and through contests, NIDA is working to encourage teens to get factual answers from scientific experts about drugs and drug abuse. Events can be sponsored by a variety of organizations, including schools, community groups, sports clubs, book clubs, EMS agencies, and local hospitals. NIDA provides an online toolkit that advises teens and their sponsoring organizations on to how create an event, how to publicize it, how to find a scientific expert, and where to find scientific information on drugs. National Drug Facts Week is Monday, November 8th through Sunday, November 14th, 2010. [For more information...](#)

22. HHS Awards \$17 Million for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has announced three sets of grants and cooperative agreements totaling nearly \$17 million for patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), or research that compares treatments and strategies to improve health outcomes for patients. The three-year funds, made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will establish a network of PCOR centers, enable PCOR in pediatric emergency medicine, and support building capacity for community-based providers to engage in this type of research. Three of the four research nodes will focus on patient-centered outcomes research related to the delivery of primary care, while the fourth (in Boston), will focus more specifically on research that is relevant to the care and treatment of individuals with HIV/AIDS. Another grant totaling \$3.5 million will be awarded to Columbia University to support patient-centered outcomes research within the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN). The funds will help boost data capacity, conduct studies and disseminate information on research findings involving pediatric emergency care. Separately, a grant totaling \$3.5 million will be made to the American Academy of Pediatrics at Elk Grove Village, Ill., to support development of an electronic health record sub-network within the Pediatric Research Network in the Office Setting, the nation’s largest pediatric primary care research network. The results from this work will be used to inform guidelines and policies of pediatric practice. [For more information...](#)

23. FEMA Releases Course on Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently released a new independent study course through their Emergency Management Institute on Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters. This course is targeted to local and state emergency managers and planners; however, other individuals or groups that are directly involved with meeting the needs of children may also benefit. Upon completion of the course, students will receive a FEMA certificate in addition to .40 continuing education units. <http://bit.ly/a3tdW5>

24. CDC and AAP Publish Recommendations for Seasonal Flu Vaccine in Children

Two new documents from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics address the need for influenza vaccination in *children 6 months of age and older*. According to the AAP, “All children 6 months of age and older should receive trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine each year, especially those at high risk of influenza complications (eg, children with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, morbid obesity, immunosuppression, or neurologic disorders).” Read--

- [AAP Policy Statement—Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2010 – 2011](#)
- [Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines-- Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\), 2010](#)

25. Secretary Sebelius Delegates Trauma and Emergency Care Authorities to ASPR

On Wednesday, July 28, 2010, HHS Secretary Sebelius published delegation of authority to administer grants and related authorities for trauma and emergency care to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The Secretary is authorized to delegate these authorities under sections 1201-1232 of title 12 of the Public Health Service Act, parts A through C of title 12, ([42 U.S.C. 300d through 300d-32](#)), as amended. Thus far the 2011 appropriations have not included funds for carrying out this section. [For more information...](#)

26. PTSF Releases White Paper on Optimal Trauma System Development in PA

The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation Board of Directors has released a white paper that describes its recommendations for development of trauma centers in Pennsylvania moving into the future. The paper outlines various factors a hospital needs to consider before applying to be a trauma center based on a needs assessment process. This process emphasizes trauma center development that allows for equal access to all Pennsylvania residents to trauma center services while at the same time preventing duplication of services based on competition instead of trauma center need. The full white paper and an abbreviated executive summary are located on the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation homepage at www.ptsf.org.

27. CDC Creates New Tools on Concussion

CDC has created free tools for youth and high school sports coaches, parents, athletes, and health care professionals that provide important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion. For more information--

- [Download the NFL Player Poster](#)
- [Concussion in Sports](#)
- [Resources for High School Sports](#)
- [Resources for Youth Sports](#)
- [Resources for School Professionals](#)
- [Resources for Health Care Professionals](#)

To learn more and download or order CDC's concussion resources, visit www.cdc.gov/Concussion.

28. Emergency Care Regionalization Grants Cancelled

In March 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced Solicitation Number: 10-100-SOL-00015, Comparative Effectiveness of Regionalized Emergency Care, an initiative to acquire detailed information and information analysis about regional emergency care system development, operation and maintenance for each of four (4) projects comprising a comparative effectiveness research (CER) analysis. Several comprehensive proposals were submitted to HHS by emergency care organizations including NASEMSO in May 2010. A recent amendment announced the withdrawal of funds by the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research and the solicitation was effectively cancelled. [For more information, see Amendment 2...](#)

29. CDC Releases Quick Stat and Graphic on Opioid Analgesic Deaths

From 1999 to 2007, the number of U.S. poisoning deaths involving any opioid analgesic (e.g., oxycodone, methadone, or hydrocodone) more than tripled, from 4,041 to 14,459, or 36% of the 40,059 total poisoning deaths in 2007. In 1999, opioid analgesics were involved in 20% of the 19,741 poisoning deaths. During 1999--2007, the number of poisoning deaths involving specified drugs other than opioid analgesics increased from 9,262 to 12,790, and the number involving nonspecified drugs increased from 3,608 to 8,947. From National Vital Statistics System mortality data available [here](#). See also <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm>.

30. DEA Heads First-Ever Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration and government, community, public health and law enforcement partners today announced a nationwide prescription drug "Take-Back" initiative that seeks to prevent increased pill abuse and theft. DEA will be collecting potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction at sites nationwide on Saturday, September 25th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards. Collection sites in every local community can be found by going to www.dea.gov. This site will be continuously updated with new take-back locations.

31. CDC Releases National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2007 ED Summary

Brief Highlights:

- In 2007, there were 116.8 million ED visits or 39.4 visits per 100 persons
- There were about 222 visits to U.S. EDs every minute during 2007.
- The annual number of visits to EDs has increased by 23 percent since 1997, while the annual visit rate increased by 11 percent.
- About 18.6 percent of visits by children younger than 15 years of age were to pediatric EDs.
- The age group with highest annual ED visit rate was infants under 12 months old (88.5 visits per 100 U.S. infants). This represents about 3.8 million visits.
- Patients arrived in EDs by ambulance for about 18 million (15.5 percent) visits.
- About 44.9 percent of patients 75 years of age or over arrived at EDs by ambulance
- For 64.7 percent of visits, patients arrived in EDs during nonbusiness hours
- The leading reasons for visits among children (under age 15 years) were fever, cough, and vomiting
- The leading reasons given by patients aged 15–64 years for visiting the ED were chest pain and abdominal pain
- The leading reasons given by older patients (aged 65 years or over) for visiting the ED were chest pain, shortness of breath, and abdominal pain

The data reveals that the percentage of noninjury ED visits in which patients with abdominal pain arrived by ambulance was 26.9% higher in 2007-2008 than in 1999-2000. No significant difference was observed when comparing percentages of visits for chest pain and arrival by ambulance for the same years. Read the [NCHS Data Brief](#). To view the complete report please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr026.pdf>

32. CDC Reorganizes MRSA Web Site

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics called beta-lactams. These antibiotics include methicillin and other more common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin, and amoxicillin. In the community, most MRSA infections are skin infections. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reorganized a range of educational resources to prevent, recognize, and treat MRSA infections. [For more information about the MRSA web site...](#) (For information specific to preventing MRSA infections in healthcare settings, click [here](#).)

33. NHTSA Releases Public Meeting Information on Safe Transportation of Children

The presentations from the NHTSA-hosted Public Meeting on the Safe Transportation of Children in Ambulances on August 5 are now available for your review. To view the agenda and presentations, visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS> and under “More Information” on the lower left hand, click on “Transportation of Children in Ground Ambulances.” Additional materials on the overall project can be reviewed at <http://nhtsa-ems.mci-it.com/Default.aspx>

34. CDC Warns of Disease Transmission Risks Associated with Glucose Monitoring

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has become increasingly concerned about the risks for transmitting hepatitis B virus (HBV) and other bloodborne pathogens to persons undergoing fingerstick procedures for blood sampling. Reports of HBV infection outbreaks linked to diabetes care have been increasing. Protection from infections, including bloodborne pathogens, is a basic requirement and expectation anywhere healthcare is provided. Additional information is available at:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Settings/GlucoseMonitoring.htm>
- <http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm224025.htm>

35. USDOT Secretary Announces Lowest Traffic Fatalities in Six Decades

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently released updated 2009 fatality and injury data showing that highway deaths fell to 33,808 for the year, the lowest number since 1950. The record-breaking decline in traffic fatalities occurred even while estimated vehicle miles traveled in 2009 increased by 0.2 percent over 2008 levels. In addition, 2009 saw the lowest fatality and injury rates ever recorded: 1.13 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2009, compared to 1.26 deaths for 2008. Fatalities declined in all categories of vehicles including motorcycles, which saw fatalities fall by 850 from 2008, breaking an 11-year cycle of annual increases. According to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study based on 2006 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for those between the ages of 3 and 34. In addition to the record-breaking drop in fatalities, the number of people injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2009 declined for a 10th straight year in a row, falling an estimated 5.5 percent from 2008, according to NHTSA data. Alcohol impaired driving fatalities declined by 7.4 percent in 2009 – 10,839 compared to 11,711 reported in 2008. Overall, 33 states and Puerto Rico experienced a decline in the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2009 compared to 2008. Click [here](#) to view the latest 2009 FARS data.

36. Weik Accepts Position in HRSA

Executive Director of the EMSC NRC, Tasmeen Weik, DrPH, NREMT-P, has announced that she accepted a leadership position with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and will be leaving the EMSC NRC in September. Her new responsibility will be management of the [Pediatric Emergency Care and Applied Research Network \(PECARN\)](#). Effective September 7th, Dr. Joseph Wright, a long time EMSC grantee and advocate,

will assume acting executive directorship of the EMSC National Resource Center as well as principal investigator responsibilities of Children's National's cooperative agreement with HRSA. He will lead Children's National's search for Dr. Weik's successor, which will commence immediately. NASEMSO congratulates Dr. Weik on her appointment and wishes her well in her new role!!

37. IOM Publishes New Report on the Future of Nursing Education

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) seeks to build a blueprint for the future of nursing as part of larger efforts to reform the health care system. The Initiative held three public forums to explore challenges and opportunities in the nursing profession. Summaries of the October 2009 Forum on acute care and the December 2009 Forum on care in the community are already available on the IOM website. The third forum, which took place on February 22, 2010 in Houston, examined nursing education. During the forum, experts considered innovations and strategies in three areas: what to teach, how to teach, and where to teach. The information and perspectives discussed at this forum will inform a final report on the future of nursing, expected to release soon. [A Summary of the February 2010 Forum on the Future of Nursing: Education](#) summarizes the discussions of the 2010 Forum held at the University of Texas to examine challenges and opportunities associated with nursing education overall. A free, electronic version of the Forum summary can be downloaded, and hardcopies of the publication can be purchased [from the IOM website](#). More information is available on the [Forum home page](#). The archived video webcast is available in the 'Other Meeting Resources' section of the page. The committee's final report, which will include its conclusions and recommendations, is expected in October 2010.

38. VA Recruiting for Chief Consultant, Emergency Management Strategic Health Care Group (EMSHG)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking a leader for the emergency management programs of the largest integrated health care system in the country, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The Chief Consultant serves as the principal advisor and emergency management consultant to the Chief Officer, Public Health and Environmental Hazards, and VHA on issues related to VHA emergency management readiness and effectiveness. The Chief Consultant advises the Chief Public Health and Environmental Hazards Officer, the Under Secretary for Health, and other key staff on strategies, policies, and procedures to improve and maintain readiness. The Chief Consultant provides comprehensive emergency services to VA, in addition to coordinating medical back up for the Department of Defense (DoD), and assisting the public via the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and the National Response Framework (FRF). The position of Chief Consultant, Emergency Management SHG, closes [September 16, 2010](#).

39. NVFC Offers Membership in New EMS/Rescue Section

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has launched a new EMS/Rescue (EMS/R) Section to provide volunteers in an EMS or rescue delivery system with information, education, services, and representation to enhance their professionalism. [Join](#) the EMS/R Section and become part of this group of individuals dedicated to volunteer EMS and rescue operations.

40. NOSORH Submits Comments on CMS Proposed Rule

NOSORH recently submitted comments to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services in response to CMS' Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule. NOSORH recommended that CMS should include proposed emergency transfer communication measures in the Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program as described in proposed rule; it also suggested that CMS add strengthening the quality of interactions

between hospital emergency departments and ambulances to its agenda for future development. Click [here](#) to read NOSORH's full response to CMS' request for public comment.

41. Prediction of Critical Illness During Out-of-Hospital Emergency Care. Seymour et al in *JAMA*. 2010;304(7):747-754. doi:10.1001/jama.2010.1140

Objectives : To determine the out-of-hospital clinical predictors of critical illness and to characterize the performance of a simple score for out-of-hospital prediction of development of critical illness during hospitalization. **Conclusions:** In a population-based cohort, the score on a prediction rule using out-of-hospital factors was significantly associated with the development of critical illness during hospitalization. This score requires external validation in an independent population. [Abstract](#). Subscription required for full text.

42. Assessing Critical Illness During Emergency Medical Services Care. Wang and Yealy in *JAMA*. 2010;304(7):797-798. doi:10.1001/jama.2010.1175. Abstract not available. [Extract](#). Subscription required for full text.

43. Noninvasive Continuous Positive Airway Pressure in Acute Respiratory Failure: Helmet Versus Facial Mask.

Chidini et al in *PEDIATRICS* Vol. 126 No. 2 August 2010, pp. e330-e336. Noninvasive continuous positive airway pressure (nCPAP) is applied through different interfaces to treat mild acute respiratory failure (ARF) in infants. Recently a new pediatric helmet was introduced in clinical practice to deliver nCPAP. The objective of this study was to compare the feasibility of the delivery of nCPAP by the pediatric helmet with delivery by a conventional facial mask in infants with ARF. [For more information...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES

Pennsylvania State EMS Conference. September 17-18 (with preconference sessions on September 15-16), 2010 at the Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster, PA. More information can be found at www.pehsc.org.

TN 9th Annual Update in Acute & Emergency Care Pediatrics Conference. October 1-2, 2010. Wilderness At the Smokies Resort, Sevierville, Tennessee For more info go to: www.tnemsc.org

PULSE CHECK 2010, the 55th Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, will be held Thursday evening September 30, 2010 to Sunday morning October 3, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Albany on Wolf Road. Information is posted on the Association's web site at www.nysvara.org.

New Jersey Statewide Conference on EMS, Atlantic City November 11th - 13th 2010. For more information visit: www.njemsconference.com

New Jersey METI Games. November 11th - 12th, 2010. For more information visit www.njemsconference.com.

25th Annual Texas EMS Conference, November 21-24. Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX. For more information visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/10conference.shtm>.

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

2010 Distracted Driving Summit September 21, 2010 Renaissance Hotel 999 Ninth Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20001

ENA Annual Meeting. San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio, TX. General Assembly September 22-34, Scientific Assembly September 23-25, 2010. Go to www.ena.org for more information.

NAEMT Annual Meeting at EMS EXPO 2010 - Sept. 27 – Oct. 1, 2010. Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX. For more information, go to <http://www.firehouseevents.com/>.

ACEP Scientific Assembly 2010. September 28 - October 1, 2010. Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, go to www.acep.org.

*EMS Safety Foundation Hands on Vehicle Workshop. October 2, 2010 in Dallas, TX immediately following EMS Expo. [Click here to Register for the Hands on Ambulance Vehicle Workshop and Design Clinic](#)

Institute of Medicine Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events. October 6-7, 2010. Washington, DC. See <http://www.iom.edu/en/Activities/PublicHealth/MedPrep.aspx> for more information.

NASEMSO Annual Meeting. October 10-15, 2010, Norfolk Marriott Waterside/Waterside Convention Center Norfolk, Virginia. More info available at www.nasemso.org. Sponsorship and exhibitor information [now available](#).

2010 Air Medical Transport Conference October 11-13, 2010. Ft. Lauderdale, FL. For more information, go to www.aams.org.

EMS Education Implementation Webinar. October 20, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“System Update: 2010 NASEMSO Survey Results.”** More info including registration link at www.nasemso.org as speakers and topics are confirmed.

*2010 NOSORH Annual Conference. November 15-17, 2010. Renaissance Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Please visit the [Annual Meeting page](#) on the NOSORH Web site for additional information.

EMS Education Implementation Webinar. November 22, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“The Role of National Certification in Implementing the EMS Education Agenda.”** More info including registration link at www.nasemso.org as speakers and topics are confirmed.

ECCU 2010. Emergency Cardiac Care Update, December 8-11, 2010. San Diego, CA. Sponsored by the Citizen CPR Foundation. For more information, go to <http://eccu2010.com/>.

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

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