



Washington Update

National Association of State EMS Officials - 201 Park Washington Court - Falls Church, VA 22046-4527
Ph: 703-538-1799 - Fx: 703-241-5603 - Email: info@nasemso.org - www.nasemso.org

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1. Gary Brown (VA) Named NASEMSO Treasurer

During the recent NASEMSO Board of Directors meeting on October 11, Gary Brown of Virginia was named Treasurer to fill the vacancy created when Paul Patrick of Utah was elected as President-elect in Boise at the Annual Meeting.

2. US Congressman Dicks (WA) Issues Examples of Effects of Reductions Prescribed by the BCA

US Congressman Dicks (WA) has issued correspondence providing many detailed examples of the effects of automatic, across-the-board, uniform percentage reduction prescribed by the Budget Control Act (BCA). [For more information...](#)

3. GAO Releases Report on Ambulance Provider Costs and Medicare Margins

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released its report on ambulance provider costs and Medicare margins, as required by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. This report updates the GAO's 2007 report, and examines three themes: (1) 2010 ground ambulance providers' costs for furnishing transports; (2) the relationship between 2010 Medicare payments and ground ambulance providers' costs; and (3) Medicare beneficiaries' use of ground ambulance transports in 2010 Click [here](#) to view the report.

4. National Consensus Conference on Community Paramedicine Recordings

For those of you unable to attend the recent National Consensus Conference on Community Paramedicine, you can click on this [link](#) to view the recorded sessions held during this very successful event.

5. Release of the NEMSIS 2011 Public-Release Research Dataset

The NEMSIS TAC has released the 2011 Public-Release Research Dataset. This dataset contains over 14 million EMS activations reported by 35 states and territories. Research based on 2010 data set was published in journals such as Resuscitation, Pre-Hospital Emergency Care and Academic Emergency Medicine; covering topics such as pre-hospital airway management and stroke care. The NEMSIS TAC is available to help researchers with database development and analysis strategies. The 2011 Public-Release Research Dataset is available free of charge and can be accessed [here](#).

6. DHS Releases Community Engagement Guidance and Best Practices Report

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Virtual Social Media Working Group has developed a collection of best practices in leveraging social media technologies by first responders before, during and after disasters. The authors conclude that while there are risks such as information overload associated with the use of social media the benefits of actively and creatively engaging with the community, of providing citizens the means to participate in their own preparedness are great. Click [here](#) to view the report. Also the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published their 2012 edition of Crisis and Emergency Communication. Chapter 9 offers detailed suggestions of how to use social media both before and during a disaster, and a very informative section on the use of mobile devices. Download the CDC report [here](#).

7. IACP TIM Video Released

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) along with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration prepared this video, which captures the essence of collaboration and communication among “first responders” and uses the National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management (TIM) as the foundation for improving the safety of Responders. Click [here](#) to view the video.

8. Report Released on the Impact of the National Drug Shortage on Emergency Care

The Emergency Care Coordination Center (ECCC), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response has issued a report titled "The Impact of the National Drug Shortage on Emergency Care." Over the last six years, drug shortages of medications have nearly quadrupled from a peak of approximately 70 drugs in shortage during 2006 to a peak of 267 today. It is estimated that nearly 40% of drugs in shortage impact the delivery of emergency care (EC) by virtue of the shortage’s strong effect on the availability of sterile injectables widely used in the EC setting. Outside of EC, cardiovascular, oncology, anesthetic, analgesic, and anti-infective medications are routinely in short supply. The national drug shortage is so acute that at times the only way health care administrators have known a drug is in shortage is when it was missing from a manufacturer’s shipment. A meeting of stakeholders held in April 2012 and hosted by the ECCC gathered input from private medical and pharmaceutical organizations on what they considered to be the factors and effects of the national drug shortage, and the coping strategies they have employed. Click [here](#) to view the report.

9. NHTSA Releases Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for First Half of 2012 Fact Sheet

A statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2012 shows that an estimated 16,290 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. This represents an increase of about 9.0 percent as compared to the estimated 14,950 fatalities that occurred in the first half of 2011. Preliminary data reported by the Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA) shows that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the first six months of 2012 increased by about 15.6 billion miles, or about a 1.1-percent increase. Also shown are the fatality rates per 100 million VMT, by quarter. The fatality rate for the first six months of 2012 is estimated to increase to 1.12 fatalities per 100 million VMT as compared to 1.04 fatalities per 100 million VMT during the first six months of 2011. Click [here](#) to read the Traffic Safety Facts Crash Stat.

10. Video: Distracted Driving: Texts and More

This [video](#) explains the behaviors that lead to distracted driving. Whether you are talking on your cell phone (cognitive-taking your mind off the road), texting or reaching in the back seat for your purse (visual-taking your eyes off the road) or eating a hamburger (manual-taking your hands off the wheel) they are distracted driving behaviors.

11. ABEM Board Eligibility Requirements for EMS Subspecialty Now Available

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) announced that the subspecialty of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) at the General Assembly of its members on September 23, 2010. EMS is a medical subspecialty that involves prehospital emergency patient care, including initial patient stabilization, treatment, and transport in specially equipped ambulances or helicopters to hospitals. ABEM has assembled an EMS Examination Task Force composed of 12 EMS physicians that is working on the development of the EMS subspecialty examination and maintenance of certification program. It is anticipated that the first examination will be given in the fall of 2013. Board Eligibility Requirements are [now available](#).

12. Job Opportunities in the EMSC National Resource Center

The EMS for Children (EMSC) National Resource Center (NRC) has two job opportunities in Washington, DC:

- *Executive Director:* The executive director, in collaboration with the Principal Investigator, will provide strategic leadership for the Emergency Medical Services for Children National Resource Center (NRC). The executive director will also provide operational oversight, project implementation and evaluation for the National Resource Center (NRC). To view the job announcement, click [here](#). For more information, contact Dr. Joseph Wright at jwright@childrensnational.org.
- *EMS Program Manager:* As the grantee technical assistance lead, this position will oversee the delivery of technical assistance inclusive of providing EMS expertise that includes understanding the operations, regulations and policy issues specific to EMS to HRSA funded EMSC grantees and stakeholders. He/she will represent the EMS for Children Program at a variety of meetings to ensure the integration of pediatric considerations into guidelines and policies for all aspects of the EMS setting. To view the job announcement, click [here](#). For more information, contact Dr. Elena Yureneva at eyurenev@childrensnational.org.

13. CDC Reports a Long-Term Decrease in Teen Drinking and Driving

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports a long-term decrease in teen drinking and driving. According to data from Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS), the percentage decreased by 54 percent over the past 20 years. “Research has shown that factors that help to keep teens safe include parental involvement, minimum legal drinking age and zero tolerance laws, and graduated driver licensing systems. These proven steps can protect the lives of more young drivers and everyone who shares the road with them.” Click [here](#) to read the report.

14. AAA: Majority of Car Seats Still Improperly Installed

Despite technologies aimed at simplifying car seat installation, parents are missing the mark, with nearly three out of four car seats still not properly installed. AAA’s recent survey of Child Passenger Safety Technicians shows there’s widespread misuse of the LATCH system. The details are spelled out in the attached news release, including specifics on how few of the vehicle manufacturers are making available the option of the LATCH system for rear center seat positions, generally regarded as the safest place in a car for children. Also troubling is that parents are using all types of everyday items, from bungee cords and plywood to zip ties and shoe laces to secure car seats. The AAA release includes resources to help parents understand how to safely install child safety seats. [For more information...](#)

15. HHS Launches Digital Strategy Website

HHS has launched a [Digital Strategy](#) website, to enable people to access government health information from any device. Part of the strategy is consolidated topic pages, such as [www.flu.gov](#), [www.foodsafety.gov](#), and [www.vaccines.gov](#). The website is also growing its availability of HHS [data collections](#) and [mobile apps](#) for consumers (such as [Field Triage](#) and [FluView](#)).

16. Dot.gov Website Has Changed

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has redesigned the DOT gateway from the bottom up with you in mind, and we hope you [enjoy the redesigned site](#). The new dot.gov has 3 main goals:

- To help you find what you need as easily as possible
- To make the most popular resources more accessible
- To arrange our resources in line with how *you* think about transportation

DOT serves the American people, and the new page acknowledges that mission with a strengthened emphasis on customer service. Their team used direct public feedback and usability testing to build a site designed around what *you* want to do when you visit our page.

17. AHRQ Releases Guides for Improving Patient Safety Systems for Patients With Limited English Proficiency

Research suggests that adverse events affect patients with limited English proficiency (LEP) more frequently, are often caused by communication problems, and are more likely to result in serious harm compared to those that affect English-speaking patients. The [TeamSTEPPS Limited English Proficiency](#) module is designed to help you develop and deploy a customized plan to train your staff in teamwork skills and lead a medical teamwork improvement initiative in your organization from initial concept development through to sustainment of positive changes. This evidence-based module will provide insight into the core concepts of teamwork as they are applied to your work with patients who have difficulty communicating in English. Comprehensive curricula and instructional guides include short case studies and videos illustrating teamwork opportunities and successes. Also select [Improving Patient Safety Systems for Patients With Limited English Proficiency: A Guide for Hospitals](#), which may help you and your organization prepare for the TeamSTEPPS Limited English Proficiency module. This guide focuses on how to better identify, report, monitor, and prevent medical errors in patients with LEP.

18. CDC Responds to Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with state and local health departments and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating a multistate meningitis outbreak of fungal infections among patients who have received a steroid injection of a potentially contaminated product into the spinal area. Several patients suffered strokes that are believed to have resulted from their infection. The investigation also includes fungal infections associated with injections in a peripheral joint space, such as a knee, shoulder or ankle. CDC and public

health officials are referring any patients who have symptoms that suggest possible meningitis or a possible peripheral joint infection to their physicians who can evaluate them further. Those patients injected in peripheral joints only are not believed to be at risk for fungal meningitis but could be at risk for joint infection. Click [here](#) for a current update of the situation.

19. FDA Should Better Tackle Cybersecurity Risks in Medical Devices, Says GAO

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) needs to do a better job of considering cybersecurity risks in medical devices, warns the Government Accountability Office (GAO). In a [report](#) dated Aug. 31 that wasn't posted online until Sept. 27, GAO auditors note that active medical devices, such as defibrillators and insulin pumps, are more reliant on software and wireless capabilities as they've become more complex over the years. Although to date there's been no documented information security incident involving exploitation of a medical device vulnerability, there have been lab demonstrations of them. But during premarket approval for two devices with known vulnerabilities, the FDA didn't evaluate some security risks arising from areas such as patch management, auditors say. [For more information...](#)

20. NAEMSE Adds Additional EMS Educator and Level III Instructor Courses to Schedule

The National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) has added additional EMS Educator and Level III Instructor Courses to their schedule. Check out the [calendar](#) for additional dates.

- The EMS Educator Course represents the didactic component and practical application of the beginning education process to become an EMS instructor. The content of this course aligns the NAEMSE developed modules with the curriculum objectives of the 2002 National Guidelines, and has been designed to provide a basic introduction of concepts for the beginning EMS educator. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The Level II Instructor Course is representative of the 2002 National Guidelines for EMS Educators and will provide educators and program directors with the tools and information needed to further build their leadership skills and better evaluate programs, students, and faculty. This course also includes an online portion that will enhance the two-day in-person sessions. Topics covered include: Mentoring * Student Centered Learning * Lesson Plans * Program Evaluation * Social Intelligence * Research * Presentation Technologies * Leadership * Administrative Issues. Click [here](#) for more information.

21. Core Principles & Values of Effective Team-Based Health Care

This Discussion Paper, "Core Principles & Values of Effective Team-Based Health Care," presents basic principles and personal values that characterize interprofessional team-based care. Developed by individual participants from the IOM's Best Practices Innovation Collaborative, the authors identified key findings from health care literature, and used interviews with eleven teams located across the United States to clarify how these factors shape effective team-based care. The principles and values reviewed are intended to help guide clinicians, patients, administrators, and other stakeholders in health care seeking high-value team-based care that focuses on the goals and priorities of patients and their families. In its conclusion, the discussion paper outlines four themes to guide the growth of team-based health care delivery. [For more information...](#)

22. Sudden Unexpected Infant Death: Differentiating Natural From Abusive Causes in the ED

Sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs) are deaths in infants younger than 12 months that occur suddenly, unexpectedly, and without obvious cause in the emergency department (ED). Sudden infant death syndrome, the leading cause of SUID in the United States, is much more common, but fatal child abuse and neglect have been sometimes mistaken for sudden infant death syndrome. The distinction between these 2 entities can only be made after a thorough investigation of the scene, interview of caregivers, and a complete forensic autopsy. Development

of ED guidelines for the reporting and evaluation of SUID, in collaboration with the local medical examiner and child death review teams, will enable ED practitioners to collect important information in a compassionate manner that will be valuable to the investigating personnel. [For more information...](#)

23. Preventable Childhood Injuries

Journal of Pediatric Orthopedics published a [literature review](#) on four activities commonly associated with preventable injuries in children - use of trampolines and moon bouncers, skateboards, all-terrain vehicles, and lawnmowers - in order to promote patient education and safety. The study addresses topics such as age, gender, situation, and season in which injuries are more likely to occur. Mechanisms and types of injuries are also discussed, as well as the strategies to-date to decrease the rate of injuries. Finally, the study provides safety recommendations for use of a given device.

24. Sports-Related Concussions

A [study](#) published in *Pediatric Emergency Care* aimed to provide healthcare providers with the most recent knowledge regarding sports-related concussions among youth. The study explored the following concussion-related topics: history, biomechanics/pathophysiology, latest definition, signs and symptoms, management, associated neuroimaging, second-impact syndrome, and post-concussive syndrome. Concussions are common in the United States, and knowledge about what it is and how to manage it is expanding. In particular, this study emphasizes that signs and symptoms of a concussion may be subtle. Additionally, the decision for the patient to safely return to play or RTP should be a slow and dynamic process that involves the patient's individualized progress, medical history, and age.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*****STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES*****

New York State EMS Conference-Vital Signs. October 18-21, 2012. Syracuse, NY. [For more information...](#)

18th Annual Pocono EMS Conference. October 18-21, 2012. Inn at Pocono Manor, Pocono Manor, PA. [For more information...](#)

New Jersey Statewide Conference on EMS. November 1 -4, 2012. Sheraton, Atlantic City, NJ. [For more information...](#)

33rd Annual Virginia EMS Symposium. November 7-11, 2012. Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Norfolk, Virginia. Register online to save time and money, check out our course catalog, which offers more than 250 courses, learn how to become a sponsor, review our call for presentations and additional event info! [For more information...](#)

27th Annual Texas EMS Conference. November 9-14, 2012. Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas. [For more information....](#)

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

NOSORH Annual Meeting. October 16-18, 2012. Madison, Wisconsin. [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course. October 19-21, 2012. Parkland College, IL. [For more information...](#)

The AAP National Conference & Exhibition (AAP Experience). October 20-23, 2012. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans. No matter your role in medicine, you belong at the world's largest pediatric conference. [For more information...](#)

Air Medical Transport Conference. October 22-24, 2012. Seattle, WA. [For more information...](#)

15th Annual Trauma Center Association of America Trauma Conference and Annual Meeting. October 23-26, 2012. The Mills House, Charleston, SC. [For more information...](#)

2012 International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs (IAEMSC) Annual EMS Leadership Summit. October 26-29, 2012. Capital Hilton, Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

APHA 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition. October 27-31, 2012. Moscone Convention Center West, San Francisco, CA. [For more information...](#)

3rd Annual Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Scientific Meeting and Training. October 28–30, 2012. Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown, Philadelphia, PA. [For more information...](#)

EMSWorld Expo. October 29-November 2, 2012. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. [For more information...](#)

1st Annual World Trauma Symposium. November 1, 2012. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Level II Instructor Course. November 2-3, 2012. Mineral Area College, MO. [For more information...](#)

21st Annual NNAEMSA Education Conference. November 5-9, 2012. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, NV. [For more information...](#)

30th Annual International Trauma Conference. November 8-11, 2012. Hilton at the Walt Disney World Resort, FL. [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course. November 9-12, 2012. Texas EMS Conference. [For more information...](#)

National Rural Health Day. November 15, 2012. Click [here](#) to help with your planning!

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

NASEMSO Staff Contacts

Elizabeth B. Armstrong, CAE, MAM / Executive VP
 (703) 538-1799 ext. 8
armstrong@nasemso.org

Dia Gainor/Executive Director
 (703) 538-1799 ext. 7

Dia@nasemsso.org

Sharon Kelly / Executive Assistant
(703) 538-1799 ext. 2
kelly@nasemsso.org

Kathy Robinson / Program Manager
(703) 538-1799 ext. 4
robinson@nasemsso.org

Kevin McGinnis/Program Manager
(571) 749-7217
mcginnis@nasemsso.org

Leslee Stein-Spencer/Program Manager
Stein-Spencer@nasemsso.org

Mary Hedges/Program Manager
Hedges@nasemsso.org

Rachael Alter/Program Manager
alter@nasemsso.org

Karen Thompson / Web Site Content Manager
(828) 693-5045
thompson@nasemsso.org

National Association of State EMS Officials
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church VA 22046
Phone: (703) 538-1799
Fax: (703) 241-5603
Website: www.nasemsso.org

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