



# Washington Update

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**November 15, 2012**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**1. NASEMSO Website: Change of Members Only Password Access**

We have updated the user name and password required to access the NASEMSO website's members only area. Members can check their email "inbox" for the new password sent on November 7<sup>th</sup> from Dia Gainor, or they can

contact NASEMSO Headquarters for a reminder at: [info@nasemso.org](mailto:info@nasemso.org). This change is in effect now. The members only area of the NASEMSO website includes Council and Committee documents and meeting minutes, Board of Directors' agendas, handouts, and minutes (beginning in 2013), and resources restricted to current NASEMSO members.

**2. AHRQ Announces Conference Grant Program**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) seeks to support conferences that help to further its mission to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. The types of conferences eligible for support include: 1) Research development - conferences where issues or challenges in the practice and delivery of health care are defined and a research agenda or strategy for studying them is developed; 2) Research design and methodology - conferences where methodological and technical issues of major importance in the field of health services research are addressed or new designs and methodologies are developed; 3) Dissemination and implementation conferences where research findings and evidence-based information and tools are summarized, communicated and used by organizations and individuals that have the capability to use the information to improve the outcomes, quality, access to, and cost and utilization of health care services; and/or, 4) Research training, infrastructure and career development - conferences where faculty, trainees and students are brought together with stakeholders to develop, share or disseminate research products, experiences, curricula, syllabi, training competencies. These types of conferences are not for the training of individuals in health services research. [For more information...](#)

**3. Regionalized Emergency Care Services Draft Report out for Comment**

The National Quality Forum (NQF) has posted a draft of their current work on regionalized emergency care which is available for public comment through December 7. Click [here](#) to view the report. During this time, NQF members and the public will be able to submit comments on the report as a whole or on individual sections. For **public and member comment**, comments must be submitted through the NQF website, using the following [hyperlink](#) from the project page. Please feel free to encourage others to submit comment.

**4. EMSC Targeted Issue Funding Opportunity Pre-Announcement**

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) EMS for Children (EMSC) Program is pleased to announce a funding opportunity pre-announcement (FOA) for the EMS for Children Targeted Issue (TI) Grant Program. Qualified applicants include accredited schools of medicine and state governments. For additional details about the pre-announcement, please visit the [HHS Grants Forecast webpage](#). Note that a link is provided on this page that allows users to automatically receive emails when the announcement is updated. The TI Grant application is anticipated to be released on **January 7, 2013**, with an estimated due date of **March 5, 2013**. The federal agency contact for the TI Grant announcement is Tasmeen Weik, DrPH, Director of Research for the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program. She can be reached at [tweik@hrsa.gov](mailto:tweik@hrsa.gov).

**5. Side by Side Comparison of GSA KKK-A-1822F, ASTM 2020 and NFPA 1917 Available**

Ambulance manufacturers have provided NASEMSO with what is believed to be the first ever side by side comparison of the GSA KKK-A-1822F August 1, 2007 "Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance" specification, ASTM F2020 - 02a(2009) "Standard Practice for Design, Construction, and Procurement of Emergency Medical Services Systems (EMSS) Ambulances", and NFPA 1917 "Standard for Automotive Ambulances". A slide show and comparison table can be downloaded [here](#).

**6. Harris Trusted Enterprise Network Positioned For FirstNet**

Harris Corporation announced the availability of a new, highly-secure enterprise network for use by government and military agencies, first responders, healthcare organizations and other private enterprises that positions the

company to take advantage of the business that is likely to result from the eventual build-out of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) known as FirstNet. [For more information...](#)

**7. Plans & Challenges Emerge For Nationwide Public Safety Broadband**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), an independent board established to oversee the creation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) for first responders, recently started the difficult work of designing a blueprint of what such a massive network might look like. But as public comments on the proposed conceptual architecture of the network began flowing in this week, the sheer size and scope of the effort -- combined with the multitude of existing systems currently in use across the country -- suggest that planning, policy and integration activities will be more difficult and time consuming than actually building the network. [For more information...](#)

**8. Golden Hour Jury Verdict Leads emsCharts to Bankruptcy**

Golden Hour announced on October 30<sup>th</sup> that after a 6-year suit in Federal Court and the US Circuit Court of Appeals, and reexamination by the USPTO of the US Patent 6,117,073, its suit against emsCharts, the resulting jury verdict, pending post-trial motion for judgment and permanent injunction, has caused emsCharts' insolvency. Golden Hour believes emsCharts chose bankruptcy to forestall judgment and a potential injunction against its operations as well as to stall a second patent suit for infringement and induced infringement of US Patent 7,668,736. Golden Hour is now the single, largest, creditor of emsCharts and will aggressively pursue all legal recourse available to see that damages caused by emsCharts' infringement are paid and that the infringement discontinues. [For more information...](#)

**9. PrioriHealth Partners, LLP Awarded NHTSA Contract to Evaluate NEMSIS Performance**

PrioriHealth has finalized a contract with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS.gov) to implement a two-year project to assess the ability of existing National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data to measure local and state EMS system performance as outlined by the December 2009 EMS Performance Measures. The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) and the National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA) were key partners in the proposal development and integral in identifying the key agency participants that will be studied. [For more information...](#)

**10. EMS System Data Integration to Improve Traffic Crash Emergency Response and Treatment**

ITS and Transportation Safety: EMS System Data Integration to Improve Traffic Crash Emergency Response and Treatment – Phases IV and V. The University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies has released a report that outlines the development and pilot testing of CrashHelp, a software designed to improve the information exchange between emergency medical service providers and emergency department providers. [For more information...](#)

**11. NHSC Releases White Paper on Protecting Americans in the 21st Century**

The National Homeland Security Consortium (NHSC), of which NASEMSO is a member, has released the 2012 revised white paper entitled "Protecting Americans in the 21st Century: Priorities for 2012 and Beyond." This white paper identifies ongoing threats and vulnerabilities that are affecting our nation. The Consortium is comprised of state and local safety, security and health professionals, along with elected officials and the private sector. This 2012 paper is an update from the 2008 and 2010 versions that NASEMSO has endorsed. Click [here](#) to download the white paper.

**12. Executive Order Establishing the White House Homeland Security Partnership Council**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, President Obama signed an Executive Order to advance the Federal Government's use of local partnerships to address homeland security challenges. Click [here](#) to read the Executive Order.

**13. DHS Releases Guidance for Protecting Responders' Health During Aerosol Anthrax Attack**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued guidance, based on a federal interagency working group effort, to educate first responders on protective actions they should take in the event of a wide-area anthrax release. The document, "Guidance for Protecting Responders' Health during the First Week Following a Wide-Area Aerosol Anthrax Attack," focuses on a specific scenario of a large-scale aerosol anthrax release in a major U.S. city and the immediate post-attack environment. [For more information...](#)

**14. GAO Demonstrates Continued Need for Ambulance Relief**

The AAA has released an [issue brief](#), which requests Congress to extend the 2% add-on for urban transports, 3% add-on for rural transports and 22.6% add-on for transports in super-rural areas, all of which are set to expire on Dec. 31, 2012. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) recommends reforms that will radically and negatively impact Medicare ambulance payment. Congress must carefully consider the impact of, and justification for, these reforms before making such fundamental changes to ambulance payments. To ensure the continuity of emergency medical care, Congress needs to extend Medicare ambulance relief. The AAA has also produced [talking points](#) to assist people who are interested in talking about these issues with their Members of Congress.

**15. MedPAC Recommends Reducing Payment For Non-Emergency Ambulance Transports**

From our colleagues at the Association of Critical Care Transport: On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission unanimously recommended revamping the Medicare ambulance payment system by ending three temporary add-on payments that boost reimbursements for ground and air transports, as well as defining what kinds of transport are medically necessary. The two sets of recommendations to Congress will appear in the commission's March report. They mostly match draft recommendations the commission presented in October (194 DER A-20, 10/9/12). Click [here](#) to read about the Ambulance Services Payment System. See item 14 to read the GAO report.

**16. GAO Ambulance Report Released**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a report on ground 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. [For more information...](#)

**17. New NHTSA Report Shows Seat Belt Use at Record High**

Latest survey by nation's chief traffic safety agency shows 86 percent of all motorists buckling up, dramatic increase in seat belt use in southern states. An overwhelming majority of the millions of families traveling our nation's highways this Thanksgiving weekend, one of the busiest travel times of the year, will be buckling up, according to new survey results released today by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). New NHTSA research shows that nationwide seat belt use reached an all-time high of 86 percent in 2012. [For more information...](#)

**18. Curbing Teen Driver Crashes: An In-Depth Look at State Novice Driver Initiatives**

This publication looks at what states are doing to address teen driver safety through strengthening Graduated Driver License (GDL) laws; ensuring law enforcement support for these laws; engaging parents and teens; improving driver education; and garnering consistent media coverage. The featured initiatives were identified through a survey of State Highway Safety Offices conducted by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) in August 2011. Transportation safety consultant and former New Jersey State Highway Safety Office Director Pam Fischer researched and wrote the report, and an expert panel contributed their insights as well. [For more information...](#)

**19. Honeywell Humanitarian Relief Fund Provides Aid To First Responders Affected By Hurricane Sandy**

Honeywell, the manufacturer of Morning Pride gear for first responders, is donating more than \$600,000 in first responder products to aid in the relief and recovery efforts in areas devastated by Hurricane Sandy. [For more information...](#)

**20. OHA Guidance to EMS on Force Protection and Stress Management amid Hurricane Recovery Efforts**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Health Affairs (OHA) has released guidance to EMS systems on force protection and stress management amid hurricane recovery efforts. With Hurricane Sandy and the related recovery work taking a toll on the first responder (emergency services) community, EMS systems in impacted areas along the Eastern Seaboard must take steps to ease the stress on their personnel, mitigate burnout, and ensure that immediate challenges do not become long-term problems. The importance of taking care of responders with empathy and support as they serve their communities cannot be overemphasized, especially in the aftermath of a catastrophic event such as Hurricane Sandy. EMS systems must limit the psychological fallout their personnel experience for the sake of compassion and to ensure the system can carry out its mission. Click [here](#) to download guidance from DHS Office of Health Affairs.

**21. Help Volunteer Firefighters Impacted by Recent Disasters**

Hurricane Sandy ripped through the East Coast, leaving millions without electricity, almost 115 dead, and lower Manhattan underwater. Counties in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut have been federally declared disaster areas. As citizens in these areas look to their local firefighters and EMTs for assistance, those same first responders are dealing with loss of power, damaged homes and vehicles, and other difficulties of their own. The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund is designed to help volunteer firefighters who are impacted by large-scale disasters such as this. The Fund provides a stipend of \$250 to volunteer fire and EMS personnel affected by state- or federally-declared disasters to help them meet basic needs in the aftermath of the disaster. [For more information...](#)

**22. FDNY EMS Command Hurricane Sandy Blacksheep Relief Project**

For those wishing to make donations to assist EMS colleagues in New York City impacted by Hurricane Sandy, the NYC EMS Blacksheep Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Project needs your help. People are needed to help with receiving and distributing items to our members and family in the Emergency Services who have been affected by Sandy. If you can lend a hand, transport items please contact Archie Nieman: (646) 287-1051; (718) 349-1570; [arc1569@yahoo.com](mailto:arc1569@yahoo.com). If you can help by donating, please go to [www.workingsaintsusa.org](http://www.workingsaintsusa.org) and donate to the Blacksheep Relief Effort for Emergency Personnel that have lost all they own to damage from Hurricane Sandy. Click on the donate button complete the PayPal form and write Relief Effort in the special instructions area. If you do not use credit or debit cards send a check or money order to Working Saints USA, P.O. Box 51084, Fort Myers, Florida 33994.

**23. Voluntary Recall of All Ameridose Medical Products**

On October 31, 2012, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that Ameridose is voluntarily recalling all of its unexpired medical products in circulation. Ameridose is based in Westborough, Mass., and is managed by some of the same people as the New England Compounding Center (NECC), the firm that distributed and recalled injectable medications implicated in the ongoing multistate outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections. FDA is not aware of any recent reports of infections associated with the recalled Ameridose products. However, the preliminary results of FDA's ongoing inspection of Ameridose have raised concerns about a lack of sterility assurance for products produced at and distributed by this facility. As a result of FDA's preliminary findings, Ameridose has agreed to voluntarily recall all of its unexpired products in circulation. [For more information...](#)

**24. Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey Now Online**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has announced the release of e-tables to make data publically accessible on the Internet from the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (CAIS). CAIS is a critical source of national injury data for youths, aged < 20 years, on farms in the United States. These e-tables present CAIS data for the years 2001, 2004, 2006, and 2009 and Minority Farm Operator Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (M-CAIS) data for the years 2000, 2003, and 2008. NIOSH plans to add additional years of CAIS and M-CAIS data when they become available. [For more information...](#)

**25. AAP Recommends Steps to Control Pain, Stress in Pediatric Emergency Care**

Control of pain and stress for children is a complex yet vital component of emergency medical care. Although there are numerous barriers to pain control for children in the emergency department (ED) and out-of-hospital emergency care settings, including difficulty in assessing pain in young patients, unfamiliarity with new products and techniques, fear of the adverse effects of medication, and staffing limitations and time constraints, many physicians have begun to apply novel and consistent approaches to reducing children's pain in the emergency setting. This AAP clinical report provides evidence-based system-level and provider-level guidance for pain management and anxiolysis (the administration of anti-anxiety medication) in the acute care setting. [For more information...](#)

**26. Drops and Sprays Put Curious Kids at Risk**

The Federal Drug Administration is warning the public to keep over-the-counter eye drops to relieve redness and nasal decongestant sprays out of the reach of children at all times. In the hands of young children, who are apt to swallow them, they can cause serious health consequences such as nausea, vomiting, lethargy, tachycardia (fast heart beat) and coma. These products are sold under various brand names, including Visine, Dristan and Mucinex, as well as in generic and store brands. Click [here](#) to learn more about what to do if a child swallows these products.

**27. Committee on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth**

An IOM committee will conduct a study on sports-related concussions in youth from elementary school through young adulthood, including military personnel and their dependents. The committee will review the available literature on concussions, including their causes, relationships to hits to the head or body during sports, and effectiveness of protective devices and equipment. The committee will also review concussion risk factors, screening and diagnosis, treatment and management, and long-term consequences. [For more information...](#)

**28. IOM Webcast Archived: The Role of Telehealth in an Evolving Health Care Environment**

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) workshop on [The Role of Telehealth in an Evolving Health Care Environment](#), held August 8-9, 2012, has been archived. This workshop provided perspectives on the potential for telehealth to serve geographically isolated individuals and extend the reach of scarce resources, while also emphasizing quality and value in the industry of health care services.

**29. The National Conference of State Legislatures Posts Trauma System Video and Booklet**

A trauma system is designed to provide a continuum of intensive medical services that begins immediately following a traumatic injury and continues through hospital discharge. EMS is an integral part of a trauma system that provides rapid response to emergencies, prehospital emergency care and transportation to an appropriate medical facility. For patients with severe injuries, getting care at a Level I trauma center lowers the risk of death by 25 percent. Trauma systems vary by state. This [video](#) is intended to provide an overview of the trauma system.

**30. HHS Releases Hurricane Disaster Behavioral Health Resources**

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Resources (HHS) has updated and released "[Hurricane Disaster Behavioral Health Resources](#)," which contains a listing of Web resources that provide information and coping skills to address the hurricane-related behavioral health, stress, and trauma concerns of adults, children and youth, and first responders. [For more information...](#)

**31. 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. [Download report.](#)

**32. EMS On The Hill Day 2013 To Be Held Prior To EMS Today**

EMS leaders, practitioners and media are encouraged to mark their calendars for EMS on the Hill Day 2013, which will be held March 5-6 in Washington, D.C. The event will be held immediately prior to [EMS Today](#), the annual JEMS conference and exhibition. All EMS professionals from across the nation are invited to participate in the event, where they can personally meet with their Congressional representatives to let them know about

challenges in providing emergency medical care, and to advocate for the passage of key EMS legislation. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and work with the top EMS leadership from across the country and learn how to effectively advocate on behalf of EMS. What they learn from their experience at EMS on the Hill Day can be applied locally to benefit their EMS agencies and communities. [For more information...](#)

**33. NREMT Board Selects New Executive Director**

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Board of Directors announces the selection of Severo (Tré) Rodriguez, III, MS, AEMCA, NREMT-P as the new Executive Director. Mr. Rodriguez will begin his employment with the NREMT in early 2013 and assume the role of Executive Director upon the retirement of William E. Brown, Jr. [For more information...](#)

**34. Public Comment: Draft National Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Standards**

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is circulating a draft of *National Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Standards* for public comment. “ANA has spearheaded the development of new multi-disciplinary National Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Standards (draft) to provide evidence-based and outcomes-focused standards of care that will be applied by all disciplines across all settings where health care services are provided”. The deadline for comments is Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) to review the draft document.

**35. HeartSine Technologies Issues Global Correction Of Public Access Defibrillators**

On September 13, 2012, HeartSine Technologies, Ltd. initiated a voluntary global correction of certain Samaritan 300/300P PAD public access defibrillators to address two separate issues that may affect the ability to deliver therapy to a patient in a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) event, if needed. Certain Samaritan 300/300P PAD devices manufactured before December 2010 have been found to intermittently turn on and off, which may eventually deplete the battery. In addition and separately, certain Samaritan 300/300P PAD devices containing early versions of the battery management software may misinterpret a temporary drop in battery voltage as signaling a low battery and subsequently turn the device off. In certain instances, a device experiencing either condition could be unable to deliver therapy during a cardiac event. [For more information...](#)

**36. NEMSMA and IAFC-EMS Section Jointly Support Chief EMS Officer Designation**

The National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA) and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) EMS Section recently signed a joint statement in support of the Chief EMS Officer Designation Program. The CEMSO Designation provides high-level credentialing for those leading and managing emergency medical services programs in fire departments, city or county government third service, hospital-based, private, volunteer, military, federal and other organizations. The National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs – EMS Section (IAFC-EMS Section) represent a broad group of EMS leaders from most of the various organizational types by which EMS is delivered in the United States. Working together, the leadership of IAFC-EMS Section and NEMSMA has determined that it is in our best interest to collaboratively support the CEMSO process and encourage participation in the program by EMS leaders regardless of the government or corporate environment in which they work. We recognize that while each environment has its unique aspects, the vast majority of what is done and what needs to be done by those leading and managing EMS programs is common to all legitimate, progressive EMS organizations. Click [here](#) to read the joint statement.

**37. Northrop Grumman Remotec Unveils Titus Robot For First Responders**

Remotec Inc., a Clinton, Tennessee-based subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corp., Oct. 17 unveiled what the company is calling a “lighter, faster, stronger and more intelligent” addition to its Andros line of unmanned ground

vehicles (UGVs) for first responders. The new UGV, known as Titus, weighs 135 pounds and measures 27 inches long, 16 inches wide and just 23 inches high. The system features a four-articulator design and an operator control unit with a hybrid touch-screen and game system-style physical controls. [For more information...](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

\*American Ambulance Association Annual Convention & Tradeshow. November 27-29, 2012. Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, NV. This premier event is one of the largest inclusive gatherings of ambulance and pre-hospital care leaders, and features three distinct tracks for Administration, Leadership and Operations. AAA's primary focus continues to be providing critical information that both new and established ambulance services may utilize to better serve their communities. [For more information...](#)

\*EMS on the Hill Day. March 5-6, 2013. Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

\*NASEMSO 2013 Mid-Year Meeting. March 5-7, 2013. Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

\*EMS Today. March 5-9, 2013. Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

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

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