



Washington Update

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1. National EMS Program Accreditation Implementation Deadline Imminent

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) reminds states and EMS programs that the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is being inundated with applications for national EMS program accreditation. By the end of December, a program seeking accreditation must have completed their Letter of Review Self Study Report (LSSR) and have a Letter of Review (LoR) *in hand* to comply with the majority of states implementing a requirement for national EMS program accreditation and for their candidates to be eligible for national EMS certification after January 1, 2013. The number of accredited paramedic programs and programs actively engaged in the accreditation process has jumped exponentially to 532. While every effort is being made to accommodate applications received as the deadline nears, programs that wait until the last two weeks of December to submit their LSSR are not guaranteed they will have an LoR in hand on January 1, 2013. The LoR process is a transitional effort that will enable the CAAHEP to accommodate the large volume of last minute applications. After December 31, the LoR process will not be an option for programs seeking to comply with the implementation requirement. Effective January 1, 2013, candidates who enter a non-accredited program will be ineligible for national EMS certification and ineligible for paramedic licensure (or reciprocity) in the majority of states. More information, including the LSSR is available on the CoAEMSP website at www.coaemsp.org. To check the accreditation or LoR status status of an EMS program, go to www.caahep.org. The listing will be updated on a daily basis through the end of December. For questions, please contact NASEMSO Program Manager Kathy Robinson (Robinson@nasemso.org).

2. Beyond 911: State and Community Strategies for Expanding the Primary Care Role of First Responders

The National Conference of State Legislatures (the national US association of elected State Representatives and Senators) has just published a document titled "Beyond 911: State and Community Strategies for Expanding the Primary Care Role of First Responders" which describes the current status of, and raises items of consideration for, community paramedicine in the United States. The document is available for download by clicking [here](#).

3. Association of Air Medical Services Elects New Chair

Congratulations to Gerald M. Pagano, who was elected as the new chair of the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) at the AAMS Annual Meeting in October. Mr. Pagano will serve a one-year term on the AAMS Board of Directors.

4. Public Safety Broadband License Granted to FirstNet

On November 15th, the FCC granted the public safety broadband license to FirstNet, which includes what used to be referred to as the D Block. The license can be viewed [here](#). The call sign is WQQE234. Also, the FCC terminated the PSST's [license](#).

5. \$430 Million DHS Interoperability Program Under Fire

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has to date spent \$430 million on a failed effort to develop reliable interoperable communications systems and infrastructure across all of its component agencies, according to an internal audit. In an audit report released on Nov. 2, DHS' Office of the Inspector General (IG) found only one out of 479 radio users was capable of tuning into the common DHS radio channel. And of the 382 radios tested by the IG, only 78 (20 percent) contained all of the correct program settings for the DHS common channel. [For more information...](#)

6. NEMSIS Version 3.3.0 Release

The NEMSIS TAC, after consultation with the EMS Community, State EMS Data Managers, and EMS Software Development companies, identified a need to make some changes to the V3.2.6 dataset released in June 2012. We determined that if a change was needed it must be made available in November 2012. The new dataset is NEMSIS Version 3.3.0. Originally we expected to release Version 3.2.7; however the change to element structure within the eAirway section necessitated a new numbering change. Please visit the NEMSIS [website](#) for more information.

7. Helping Authorities Prepare for a Food-Related Emergency

FDA has prepared a valuable tool that will help its regulatory and public health partners at the state, local, tribal and territorial levels be prepared for disasters that could compromise the safety of the food supply. The Food Related Emergency Exercise Bundle (FREE-B) is a compilation of scenarios based on both intentional and unintentional food contamination events. These "table top exercises" can help government regulatory and public health agencies assess their food-emergency response protocols and procedures. Additionally, tools, resources and external links are provided within FREE-B to help in response planning. [For more information...](#)

8. Digital Press Kit: Impact of Unsafe Injection Practices

Injection safety is part of the minimum expectation for safe care anywhere healthcare is delivered; yet, CDC has had to investigate numerous outbreaks of life-threatening infections caused by injection errors. Since 2001, at least 150,000 U.S. patients have been negatively impacted by unsafe medical injections. When healthcare providers fail to follow basic infection control practices during injection preparation and administration, patients

can be exposed to life-threatening illnesses such as hepatitis and/or bacterial infections. To assist you in covering this important topic, CDC is releasing a digital press kit about the impact of unsafe injection practices in U.S. healthcare settings. The [digital press kit](#) includes fact sheets, an infographic, videos and podcasts, and quotes from CDC experts. In addition, to further educate healthcare providers about safe injection practices, CDC is releasing several new educational pieces today. [For more information...](#)

9. Sequestration Updates

As a result of the leadership of the Friends of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Coalition, Congressional leaders spoke out on November 28th about the negative effects sequestration will have on MCH programs. Click [here](#) to view the segment and fast-forward to the time 1:32:50 to view Rep. Schakowsky and other member's statements. This is the culmination of work completed by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), American Academy on Pediatrics (AAP), March of Dimes and the National WIC Association. The AMCHP is currently working to get Senators on the floor as well. It is unknown whether or not the cliff or sequestration will be averted, but they continue to advocate for a balanced approach that does not further cut non defense discretionary programs. Click [here](#) to view AMCHP materials and fact sheets about sequestration.

10. Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act

The House has considered [HR 5997, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act](#), under suspension of the rules. The bill would authorize use of certain homeland security grants for medical preparedness for first responders, their families, and immediate victims of chemical or biological event.

11. DEA Scam Alert: Extortion Scheme

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) continues to warn the public about criminals posing as DEA special agents or other law enforcement personnel. This criminal activity continues to occur, despite significant public attention to the illicit scheme. DEA offices nationwide regularly receive telephone calls from concerned citizens who are the victims of this extortion effort. [For more information...](#)

12. Emergency Department Physicians Ineligible for Medicaid Payment Increase

The Department of Health and Human Services has ruled that since emergency department physicians do not meet a specified standard for providing primary care, they will not receive a Medicaid reimbursement rate increase scheduled to go into effect on January 1. The payment hike was authorized under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which also specified the physicians eligible to receive it: family doctors, internists, and pediatricians, including pediatric subspecialists. As reported by Kaiser Health News, this payment provision is intended to ensure that primary care providers receive the same reimbursement rate for treating Medicaid patients as they do Medicare patients. [For more information...](#)

13. Pediatricians Can Be Key in Improving Rural Emergency Care

Pediatricians can play a valuable role in ensuring that children living in rural communities have access to high-quality and comprehensive emergency care, according to an AAP policy statement, "The Role of the Pediatrician in Rural Emergency Medical Services for Children," published in the November 2012 issue of Pediatrics (published online Oct. 29). Children living in rural communities have unique surgical and medical needs. They have an increased risk of disability and death from injury, trauma and medical disease because of long transport times to care and a lack of optimal, available medical expertise. The policy statement outlines obstacles to care in rural communities and urges pediatricians to help develop community-sensitive strategies to organize regionalized

pediatric emergency care, using available rural expertise and assets, to optimize outcomes of seriously ill or injured rural children. Click [here](#) to read the report.

14. FCC Sets Public Safety Do-Not-Call Registry

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopts rules to create a Do-Not-Call registry for public safety answering points (PSAPs) as required by the "Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012" (Tax Relief Act). Specifically, section 6507 of the Tax Relief Act requires the Commission, among other things, to establish a registry that allows PSAPs to register telephone numbers on a Do-Not-Call list and prohibit the use of automatic dialing equipment to contact those numbers. Therefore, the Commission adopts rules necessary for the creation and ongoing management of the Do-Not-Call registry, including requirements for adding PSAP telephone numbers, granting and tracking access by operators of automatic dialing equipment, and protecting the registry from unauthorized disclosure or dissemination of registered numbers. In addition, the Commission adopts specific monetary penalties for unauthorized disclosure or contact of any numbers on the PSAP registry. These provisions are designed to address concerns about the use automatic dialing equipment which can generate large numbers of phone calls in a short period of time, tie up public safety lines, divert critical responder resources away from emergency services, and impede access by the public to emergency lines. [For more information...](#)

15. FDA Approves First Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Manufactured Using Cell Culture Technology

Major news in flu vaccines: the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved its first cell culture-based seasonal flu vaccine, a step away from the traditional process using chicken egg cultures. The vaccine, created by Novartis, was supported with BARDA funding. Click [here](#) for the FDA announcement.

16. Tissue Plasminogen Activator for Acute Ischemic Stroke

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke rt-PA Stroke Study Group releases article on acute ischemic stroke. Patients treated with t-PA within three hours of ischemic stroke onset were found to be 30% more likely to have minimal to no disability after three months. Before this, strokes had been addressed by prevention, rather than treatment. [For more information...](#)

17. Paramedic Academic Vacancies in Perth, Western Australia

Edith Cowan University in Perth Western Australia is now advertising for Paramedic academic staff (Senior Lecturers and Professor/Associate Professor in Paramedical Science). Click [here](#) to read the job announcements.

18. Factors Associated with the Interfacility Transfer of the Pediatric Trauma Patient

A [study](#) published by *Pediatric Emergency Care* aimed to identify prehospital factors associated with the interfacility transfer of pediatric trauma patients from a Level I, II, or III trauma center to a pediatric trauma center after arrival. The retrospective study used 1,673 pediatric patients in the Denver metropolitan area aged 12 years and younger with blunt, penetrating, or thermal injuries. Results found that factors associated with interfacility transfer included younger age, lower Glasgow Coma Scale score (used to assess mental status), presence of burns, non-accidental trauma, falls, other motor vehicle-related incidents, abdominal injury, head/neck injury, limb injury, and multiple injuries. These results could be useful in future development of pediatric trauma triage guidelines by eliminating delay of treatment due to a second transfer.

19. BTF to Host the Webcast "Pediatric TBI: Second Edition of the Guidelines and Beyond"

The Brain Trauma Foundation (BTF) will host the webcast [Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\): Second Edition of the Guidelines and Beyond](#) from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm (Eastern) on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. Patrick

Kochanek, MD, professor and vice chairman of Critical Care Medicine and director of the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine will lead the webinar presentation. In this presentation, Dr. Kochanek will discuss the second edition of the Pediatric TBI Guidelines document and the approach taken to its formulation. He will also outline a number of the evidence-based changes in the guidelines and will present some additional information on new studies that have been published on pediatric TBI subsequent to the publication of the guidelines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

None scheduled at this time

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

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 2. January 4-5, 2013. Kyle, TX. This course 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. [For more information...](#)

*International Disaster Conference & Expo 2013. January 8-10, 2013. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. [For more information...](#)

*2013 NAEMSP Annual Meeting National Association of EMS Physicians. January 10-12, 2013. Bonita Springs, FL. [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. January 18-21, 2013. Lebanon, TN. This course represents the didactic component and practical application of the education process necessary to become an EMS instructor. Individuals who attend the entire course and pass the post-test will receive a certificate of course completion from NAEMSE with CEUs, which is accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS). [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. February 1-3, 2013. Corpus Christi, TX. This course represents the didactic component and practical application of the education process necessary to become an EMS instructor. Individuals who attend the entire course and pass the post test will receive a certificate of course completion from NAEMSE with CEUs, which is accredited by the CECBEMS.

*2013 Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs Annual Conference. February 9-12, 2013. Omni Shareham Hotel, Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

*19th Annual Scientific Assembly. American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM). February 9-13, 2013. Las Vegas, NV. [For more information...](#)

*Gathering of Eagles. The EMS State of the Sciences Conference. February 22-23, 2013. Dallas, TX. [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. February 22-24, 2013. Elizabeth City, NC. [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. March 4-6, 2013. Washington, DC. [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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