EMS Education and Priorities for the Future

Drew Dawson, Director, NHTSA Office of Emergency Medical Services
ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISABILITY: THE NEGLECTED DISEASE OF MODERN SOCIETY

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
Mission of NHTSA’s Office of EMS

To reduce death and disability by providing leadership and coordination to the EMS community in assessing, planning, developing, and promoting comprehensive, evidence-based emergency medical services and 911 systems.

By:

• Bringing together experts to identify the most critical issues facing the profession,
• Tackling those issues through collaboration with partners, including other federal agencies and leading associations, and
• Providing awareness, education and resources on best practices and evidence-based guidelines.
NHTSA’s National EMS Priorities

- Improve Emergency Health Outcomes
- Coordinated Federal Support of Local, State and Tribal EMS Systems
- Expand and Monitor EMS System Capacity
- Promote a Prepared, Credentialed and Healthy Workforce

Partnerships and Collaboration
FICEMS Strategic Plan

- Coordinated, regionalized, and accountable EMS and 9-1-1 systems that provide safe, high-quality care
- Data-driven and evidence-based EMS systems that promote improved patient care quality
- EMS systems fully integrated into State, territorial, local, tribal, regional, and Federal preparedness planning, response, and recovery
- EMS systems that are sustainable, forward looking, and integrated with the evolving health care system
- An EMS culture in which safety considerations for patients, providers, and the community permeate the full spectrum of activities
- A well-educated and uniformly credentialed EMS workforce

www.EMS.gov/FICEMS/plan.htm
National EMS Advisory Council

- 25 Member Advisory Committee
- Recently authorized in statute (42 U.S.C. 300d-4)
- Representatives from every sector of EMS
- Members appointed by the Secretary of Transportation for 2-year terms
- Meet 3 times per year to discuss national EMS issues and make recommendations to DOT and FICEMS

Most recent deliberations
- EMS Education
- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- EMS Agenda for the Future
- FICEMS Strategic Plan Implementation
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EDUCATION AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE: A SYSTEMS APPROACH
EMS Workforce Agenda

- EMS Workforce Agenda document published in 2011
  
  “EMS systems of the future will be able to recruit and maintain a sufficient number of well educated, adequately prepared, and appropriately credentialed EMS workers who are valued, well compensated, healthy, and safe.”

- National EMS Workforce Data Definitions – 2013 (www.ems.gov)

- National EMS Workforce Planning and Development Guidelines – 2013 (www.emsworkforce.org)

- Some great non-NHTSA tools:
For the EMS community, measuring performance is vital to achieving our ultimate goal—providing the best possible care to the people and communities we serve. Performance measures should be an integral part of the quality management process, identifying areas of strength and areas where we need to improve.
EMS Safety

The NHTSA Office of EMS is committed to improving the safety of EMS workers, their patients, and their community. A safe and efficient EMS system is integral to reducing injury and mortality on and off our Nation’s highways, and is key to ensuring prompt emergency response and safe transport of patients with any type of illness or injury.

Working with the EMS community to help make the provision of prehospital emergency care safer for providers, patients, and the public, NHTSA builds consensus and collaborates with Federal agencies and the EMS community to support and encourage projects of national significance that advance safety of the EMS responder, patient, and the community.

Advancing EMS Safety through Leadership and Partnership

NHTSA has supported and encouraged comprehensive, evidence-based projects (including the National Strategy for an EMS Culture of Safety and Safe Transportation of Children in Emergency Ground Ambulances) that will serve as the foundation for safety policy decisions at Federal, State, and local levels. Learn more →

Advancing Ground Ambulance Safety by Tracking and Investigating Crashes

NHTSA tracks ambulance crashes for the nation and the Special Crash Investigations (SCI) Program and other Federal partners investigate ground ambulance crashes. The data can be used to better protect EMS personnel, patients, and other ambulance occupants in future crashes. Learn more →

Advancing EMS Workforce Safety through Surveillance

NHTSA works to improve injury surveillance and safety in the EMS workforce. We encourage federal, State, and local partners to utilize this research to improve injury surveillance and help maintain a healthy EMS workforce. Learn more →
Evidence-based Guideline Publications

- Five EBGs have been published in *Prehospital Emergency Care*:
  - *Prehospital pain control in trauma*
  - *Air medical transportation of prehospital trauma patients*
  - *Pediatric seizure management*
  - *Prehospital control of external hemorrhage*

- Available at [www.EMS.gov/research.htm](http://www.EMS.gov/research.htm)
Current EMS for Children Targeted Issue Grants

- **Workforce development:**
  - Rural pediatric prehospital care education (NH)
- **Mobile integrated health/community medicine:**
  - Pediatric prehospital asthma interventions (IN)
- **Best clinical practices:**
  - Prehospital oral steroids in asthma (NY)
- **Professional development:**
  - Compassionate options for prehospital EMS (KY)
- **System evaluation:**
  - Prehospital evidence-based guideline utilization (TX)
- **Research Infrastructure:**
  - Establishment of EMS research network (MW)

www.emscnrc.org
State Partnership Regionalization of Care (SPROC) Grants

- Improve access to pediatric specialty services by getting the patient to the resources or bringing the resources to the patient
- Provide innovative approaches to improving pediatric care in rural, tribal and territorial communities
- First grantees are AK, AZ, CA, MT, NM, and PA
- Regionalization a priority of 2006 Institute of Medicine Report on state of emergency care
Other Projects of Interest

- EMS Innovations Project
- EMS Model Clinical Guidelines