

Town Hall Meeting Conference Call

April 21, 2009 from 2-3:30 p.m. EST

Led by:

EMSC National Resource Center

8737 Colesville Road, Suite 400

Silver Spring, MD 20910

202-476-4927

www.childrensnational.org/emsc

Participating Grantees:

Alabama, Ann Klasner	Minnesota, Kristi Moline
Alabama, Katherine Hert	Montana, Bobbi Perkins
Alaska, Raj Maskay	New York, Martha Gohlke
Arizona, Tomi St. Mars	North Carolina, Gloria Hale
Connecticut, Wendy Wheeler	North Dakota, Kelli Rice
Delaware, Marie Renzi	Ohio, Joe Stack
Hawaii, Dwayne Lopes	Oregon, Philip Engle
Iowa, Katrina Altenhofen	Pennsylvania, Steve Mrozowski
Idaho, Rachael Alter	South Dakota, Amy Marsh
Illinois, Evelyn Lyons	Utah, Kristin Lauria Gurley
Indiana, Gurinder Hoel	Virginia, David Edwards
Kansas, Sarah House	Washington, Scott Hogan
Louisiana, Debbie Huffman	West Virginia, Vicki Hildreth
Maine, Jan Brinkman	Wyoming, Carol Zorna
Michigan, Linda Nesbit	

NEDARC Staff:

Colleen Cummins, Mike Ely, Craig Hemingway, Kent Page, and Patty Schmuhl

NRC Staff:

Karen Belli, Diana Fendya, Jocelyn Hulbert, Gayathri Jayawardena, Theresa Morrison-Quinata, and Tasmeen Singh Weik

Updates and Announcements

Policy Update

Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations

For fiscal year (FY) 2009, which ends on September 30, 2009, the EMSC Program is funded at \$20 million. Looking forward to FY 2010, in February 2009 President Obama released the Administration's FY 2010 budget outline. As this is an outline and not a full spending plan, it does not recommend funding levels for federal agencies or programs, including the

EMSC Program. The President is expected to release the complete budget, including recommended funding levels for federal agencies and programs this spring.

Fiscal Year 2009 Reauthorization

On January 13, 2009, Congressman Jim Matheson (D-UT) introduced HR 479, the Wakefield Act, to reauthorize the EMSC Program for five years, from FY 2010 through FY 2014. On March 30, 2009, the House of Representatives passed HR 479 by a vote of 390-6. On February 11, 2009, Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) introduced the Wakefield Act, S 408, in the Senate. To date, no action has occurred on S 408. Both bills authorize a funding level for the EMSC Program starting at \$25 million in FY 2010 and ending at approximately \$30.5 million in FY 2014. You may recall that in order for a reauthorization bill, such as HR 479 and S 408, to become law, both the House and the Senate must vote on, and pass, their respective versions of the bill.

EMSC Performance Measures Implementation Manual

The EMSC Performance Measures Implementation Manual is still in draft form and awaiting approval prior to release. The manual will be effective until February 28, 2011. After 2011, a new manual may be developed.

Key changes made to the performance measures:

1. Performance Measure 66d – Interfacility Transfer Guidelines. The last component, process for return transfer, has been removed.
2. Definition of Patient Care Unit – The definition has been updated to provide more clarity to only include those units that are transporting a patient from a 911 or similar emergency call.
3. Performance Measure 66a – the terminology used “at the scene of an emergency” has been changed to “from dispatch through patient transport to a definitive care facility” to make clearer.

EHB Data Entries

At present, in order to achieve performance measures 66 and 68, grantees must meet all the sub-measures. For example, to meet performance measure 66 grantees must meet the sub-measures 66a, 66b, 66c, 66d and 66e; and for performance measure 68, grantees must meet sub-measures 68a, 68b, 68c and 68d. This expectation has posed great challenges for grantees and it is clear that it will be a couple of years before some of the grantees will be able to meet each of the sub-measures. Therefore, the Program has decided to adjust several of the sub-measures of performance measure 66 and 68 to stand-alone. As a result, the sub-measures will be renumbered. This

change will ensure that credit is given to those State/Territory grantees that have met some of the

sub-measures. The following is only an **example** of how the numbering of the performance measures will appear:

Current Number	Stand-alone Number XX=new number
66a	XX
66b	XX
66c	XX
66d	XX
66e	XX
67	Remains the same
68a, 68b, 68c	XX
68d	XX

This is only an example and final numbering has yet to be determined by HRSA.

Exemption from Data Collection

Grantees needing to request an exemption from data collection should send their requests directly to the State/Territory's project officer; Dan Kavanaugh at Dkavanaugh@hrsa.gov or Tina Turgel at Cturgel@hrsa.gov. If you have met the 80% data collection response rate requirement, you are not required to collect data until Program year 2010-2011.

Pediatric Equipment List

The Pediatric Equipment for Ambulances list was recently released and is available on the EMSC NRC website at www.childrensnational.org/emsc. The list includes the recommended equipment and supplies for both adult and pediatric patients. Dr. Mary Fallat and Mr. Dan Kavanaugh recommended reducing the list to only critical items and pairing down items. The list of core equipment is also available on the EMSC NRC website. At this time, a subset is being developed specifically for data collection and measurement toward achievement for performance measure 66b. Therefore, not all items on the newly released list will be required on the patient care units in order to meet the performance measure.

Change with Performance Measure 66c

The revised target date for performance measure 66c is 2017. In addition, the Program's target to achieve the performance measure is 25% of the hospitals in the State/Territory have been formally recognized as having a standardized system for pediatric medical emergencies; and 50% of the hospitals in the State/Territory have been formally recognized as having a standardized system for pediatric trauma.

Grantees will be able to reflect their achievement for this measure in the HRSA EHB as separate fields will appear for pediatric medical emergencies and trauma.

2009 EMSC Program Meeting

- We are hopeful that a representative from Senator Inouye's Office will be attending the meeting. In addition, we are optimistic that Ms. Wakefield will

- be able to attend as well.
- On June 9th a New Program Manager orientation will be held in the afternoon. The orientation is geared toward new program managers but could also serve as a refresher for long-serving EMSC program managers. All are welcome to attend.
 - Do not forget to register for the meeting and select your preferred sessions. You may opt to attend another breakout session instead of the one pre-selected during registration. Early selection of the specific sessions you would like to attend is needed to assure that the room accommodations are adequate.
 - If you are having trouble with travel in your State/Territory, please contact the NRC. The project officers have prepared a letter that explains the Program's requirement regarding attendance.
 - The selection of the Awardees for the EMSC National Heroes Awards has changed. Depending on the category of the Award, selection of the Award Recipient varies. The family representatives have also received communications encouraging them to cast their vote for the Family Volunteer of the Year Heroes Award. For more details regarding the process, please contact the NRC. Details were also provided in earlier communications and the Heroes Award nomination brochure. Nineteen states voted as of April 20th. You may still cast your vote up until Friday of this week. If you have any feedback or recommendations regarding the process, please feel free to send them to the NRC. You may also send your comments directly to Tasmeen Singh Weik at tsingh@cnmc.org

Future Town Hall Conference Calls – 2:00pm eastern time

- July 21, 2009
- September 29, 2009
- January 5, 2010

FAN Webinar

The last of the 3-part webinar series on Performance Measures, which were developed for New EMSC family representatives, will be held on May 5, 2009 at 3:00pm. Please encourage your State/Territorial family representative to attend.

EMSC Day

EMSC Day is May 20, 2009 and EMS Week is May 17-23, 2009. The NRC has created promotional materials to help celebrate these important dates. All materials may be found on our website at www.childrensnational.org/emsc.

QUESTIONS

Q1. When will the critical list of pediatric equipment become available? *We are trying to release the pediatric subset of equipment and supplies within a week or two. Please work with NEDARC for more information specific to your state.*

Q2. Can we start surveying the EMS agencies now instead of waiting until next year? *Please work with NEDARC to assure that your survey tool has all the specific items and the language used in the survey has been pre-approved by the Program and is acceptable. Keep in mind that NEDARC is also developing survey tools. Please consult with them as all surveys must be approved in order for the data results to be accepted by the Program. This is necessary to assure that all questions posed to the EMS agencies (and hospitals if applicable) are consistent from one grantee to another and process used to collect the final national data is also uniform across all states and territories.*

Q3. If we have a question regarding the pediatric equipment list, who do we contact? *Please send all questions to the NRC as we are developing an FAQ and consulting with Dr. Mary Fallat to assure that all responses are consistently shared with all EMSC grantees.*

Q4. For the regional meetings, will a form be disseminated prior to the meeting to fill-out on research priorities? *No form will be disseminated prior to the meeting. An EMSC NRC staffer will be available at each of the regional meetings to take notes and help facilitate discussions if necessary. The goal of the regional meetings is to receive feedback from each of the regions on what they recommend as the top 5 research priorities.*

Q5. When does the performance measure manual come out of draft form? *We are waiting for approval from HRSA for the new numbering.*