



Introduction

We are honored to present the third edition of the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines and want to thank the entire EMS community for contributing to its evolution. The inaugural edition, released in September 2014, has been warmly welcomed by EMS clinicians, agencies, medical directors, and healthcare organizations in our nation as well as abroad. The creation of this document is a pinnacle event in the practice of EMS medicine as it fulfilled a recommendation in *The Future of Emergency Care: Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads* published by the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academies of Sciences) in 2007. Specifically, this report states “NHTSA, in partnership with professional organizations, should convene a panel of individuals with multidisciplinary expertise to develop evidence-based model prehospital care protocols for the treatment, triage, and transport of patients.”

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) recognizes the need for national EMS clinical guidelines to help state EMS systems ensure a more standardized approach to the practice of patient care now and, as experience dictates, the adoption of future practices. The value of EMS clinicians to the patient has no boundaries as magnified by the historic 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic as well as other interjurisdictional and global responses. Model EMS clinical guidelines promote uniformity in EMS medicine which, in turn, fosters a more consistent skilled practice as EMS clinicians move across healthcare systems. They also provide a standard to EMS medical directors upon which to base practice. Supported by initial and subsequent grant funding from NHTSA’s Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s EMS for Children program, NASEMSO continues to authorize its Medical Directors Council to partner with national stakeholder organizations with expertise in EMS medical direction and subject matter experts to create a unified set of patient care guidelines. For those aspects of clinical care where evidence-based guidelines derived in accordance with the national evidence-based guideline model process were not available, consensus-based clinical guidelines are developed utilizing current available research.

The NASEMSO Model EMS Clinical Guidelines are not mandatory, are not meant to be all-inclusive, nor are they meant to determine local scope of practice. The focus of these guidelines is solely patient-centric. As such, they are designed to provide a resource for EMS clinical practice, appropriate patient care, safety of patients and clinicians, and outcomes regardless of the existing resources and capabilities within an EMS system. This document provides a clinical standard that can be used as is or adapted for use on a state, regional, local, or organizational level to enhance patient care and to set benchmark performance of EMS practice. The Guidelines should be adapted to align with federal, state, regional, and jurisdictional laws and regulations. NASEMSO’s ongoing support of this project underlines the critical evolution of the model EMS clinical guidelines as new EMS research and evidence-based patient care measures emerge. We are most grateful to be able to partner with a group of talented, committed individuals in this worthwhile endeavor.

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