



Purpose and Notes

These guidelines are intended to help state EMS systems ensure a more standardized approach to the practice of patient care, and to encompass evidence-based guidelines (EBG) as they are developed. The long-term goal is to develop a full range of evidence-based clinical guidelines for the practice of EMS medicine. However, until there is a sufficient body of evidence to fully support this goal, there is a need for this interim expert, consensus-based step.

The National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines can fill a significant gap in uniform clinical guidance for EMS patient care, while also providing input to the evidence-based guideline (EBG) development process. These guidelines will be maintained by the Medical Directors Council of the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and will be reviewed and updated periodically. As EBG material is developed, it will be substituted for the consensus-based guidelines now comprising the majority of the content of this document. In the interim, additional consensus-based guidelines will also be added as the need is identified. For guidelines to be considered for inclusion, they must be presented in the format followed by all guidelines in the document.

Universal Care and Poisoning/Overdose Universal Care guidelines are included to reduce the need for extensive reiteration of basic assessment and other considerations in every guideline.

The appendices contain material such as neurologic status assessment and burn assessment tools to which many guidelines refer to increase consistency in internal standardization and to reduce duplication.

While some specific guidelines have been included for pediatric patients, considerations of patient age and size (pediatric, geriatric, and bariatric) have been interwoven in the guidelines throughout the document.

Where IV access and drug routing are specified, it is intended to include IO access and drug routing when IV access and drug routing is not possible.

Generic medication names are utilized throughout the guidelines. A complete list of these, along with respective brand names, may be found in Appendix III. "Medications".

Accurate and quality data collection is crucial to the advancement of EMS and a critical element of EMS research. The National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) has the unique ability to unify EMS data on a national scope to fulfill this need. Each guideline, therefore, is also listed by the closest NEMSIS Version 3 Label and Code corresponding to it, listed in parentheses below the guideline name.

Quality assurance (QA) and/or continued performance improvement (CPI) programs are an indispensable element of medical direction as they facilitate the identification of gaps and potential avenues of their resolution within an EMS system. The National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA) Performance Measures is a resource for these programs. This edition of the NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines incorporates many of the NEMSQA performance measures into the key performance measures associated with each clinical guideline.