Implementation of the EMS Education Agenda

NASEMSO to Coordinate State Approach to EMS Specialty Recognition

(February 1, 2015 - Falls Church, VA) Specialty recognition, credentialing, or endorsement is the outcome of a formally defined process and mechanism for actively assessing that an individual possesses and has mastered a unique body of knowledge over and above entry-level cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains and that they can apply this knowledge and related skill set to improve care provided for patients. Numerous health care and non-healthcare professions regulated by states have one or more specialty certification areas that have been defined, in part, by members of the profession itself. Several EMS specialties have emerged since the 2000 release of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach along with a multitude of learning and psychomotor objectives, variabilities in medical oversight, and overall lack of national coordination and consistency.

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) is a non-profit, non-governmental national organization comprised of the leaders of State and Territorial EMS agencies that supports an appropriate regulatory environment focused on patient safety and protection of the public during the delivery of out-of-hospital care delivered by licensed EMS practitioners. Utilizing consensus and community-based processes, NASEMSO seeks to generate a national focus on the matter of EMS specialties, identify the system engineering necessary for recognition, and to provide technical assistance to states for implementation.

NASEMSO is pleased to announce “A National Strategy for EMS Specialty Certification” is now available on its web site. The strategy proposes to bring multiple stakeholders to the table to provide meaningful input to states and provide greater consistency in the approach to EMS specialty recognition in order to allow practitioners to provide services to the full extent of their current knowledge, training, experience, and skills. Over the next several months, NASEMSO will be conducting surveys of its members, national EMS organizations, and individual practitioners to evaluate this approach. An informational webinar is planned for February 23, 2015. For more information, go to http://www.nasemso.org/Projects/EMSEducation/EMS-Specialty-Certification.asp.