Purpose

The goal is to develop model EMS clinical guidelines for emergency medical service providers based on the most current standards of practice and evidence. The guidelines will be offered as an optional model for state, regional and local EMS systems to adopt. Model EMS clinical guidelines could promote uniformity and quality of pre-hospital care, improve EMS data collection efforts, assist state, regional and local guideline development and promote nationwide consistency and mobility among EMS providers.

Scope

The scope of the project is not intended to be all inclusive, at least not initially. The first effort focuses on developing a basic set of clinical guidelines which can serve as an important starting point for a more comprehensive set. The project will help to identify and work through the stumbling blocks which are inherent in a large, collaborative process. By focusing on a core set of guidelines, the project is intended to develop a process and product that will be expanded and updated over time.

Intended Audience

The end result will be a set of Model EMS Clinical Guidelines which will be available to EMS agencies and regional entities if they choose to adopt them, in full or in part. The guidelines can serve as a starting point and can be adapted and customized to address the specific needs of the user.

Project Developers

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Medical Directors Council is leading the multi-organizational, collaborative effort, which includes representatives from other national EMS physician organizations. There are multiple opportunities for gathering feedback from the EMS community built into the project timeline. The two-year project is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of EMS (NHTSA OEMS) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program through a Cooperative Agreement with NASEMSO. Dr. Carol Cunningham (State EMS Medical Director, Ohio) and Dr. Richard Kamin (State EMS Medical Director, Connecticut) are the Co-Principal Investigators.

More information is available at the project website Model EMS Clinical Guidelines or by contacting NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges at hedges@nasemso.org.