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Office of EMS Trauma Systems
Texas Department of State Health Services
dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/

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"The future involves regular data presentations at the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council and future development of an annual EMS/TR data book."



Lori Gabbert Charney, Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Section Director



Jia Benno, Office of Injury Prevention Branch Manager

#### From This Side

By Lori Gabbert Charney, Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Section Director and Jia Benno, Office of Injury Prevention Branch Manager

### New Leadership and Energy at the EMS/ Trauma Registry

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) welcomes new leadership and energy to the EMS/Trauma Registry work (EMS/TR).

Lori Gabbert Charney is the new Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Section Director at Texas DSHS. She came to this role from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Plan program operations area. During her ten years in the Medicaid/CHIP program, she worked on provider communications, legislative analysis, and large managed care organization implementation. Most recently, she focused on translating technology needs to policy staff and managing large projects with a focus on program efficiencies. In her role as Section Director, Lori oversees the MCH Unit, MCH Epidemiology, Newborn Screening, and Health Services and Oral Health.

Jia Benno is the new Office of Injury Prevention Branch Manager within the MCH Unit. She completed her Public Health and Epidemiology training from Tulane University in New Orleans. She spent the past four years at the Louisiana Department of Health where she served as the Mortality Surveillance Epidemiology Manager. In this role, she oversaw Louisiana's National Violent Death Reporting System, Child Fatality Review, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death case registry, and many other injury and violence prevention programs.

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### Trauma Registry cont...

Lori and Jia look forward to supporting the EMS/TR Team as they continue work to collect and report complete and accurate data. Good data is essential in creating change. Lori and Jia share a mutual passion for bringing data to action. In their first two months, they prioritized data dissemination timelines, short- and long-term strategies, and identified program efficiencies. The future involves regular data presentations at the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council and future development of an annual EMS/TR data book.



Since injuries are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal hospitalizations in Texas, Lori, Jia, and the EMSTR Team analyze the collected online reporting system information regarding:

- All EMS runs
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Spinal cord injuries
- Submersions
- Other traumatic injuries

Your data helps DSHS staff understand the impact of injury, identify public health issues, and provide data to support programs focused on preventing future injuries. The DSHS analyses also support injury prevention projects to improve the efficiency and quality of care for Texans.

### **Updated Statement Regarding COVID-19**

From the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)

Effective immediately, the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors amends the CoAEMSP February 5, 2021, Updated Statement regarding COVID-19.

The CoAEMSP is extending the original guidelines associated with CAAHEP Standards III.A.2. Hospital/Clinical Affiliations and Field/Internship Affiliations and III.C.3. Curriculum to permit the use of alternative evaluation methods to include scenarios, case studies, and simulation as well as the adjustment of minimum competencies to satisfy the requirements of these standards for Paramedic educational programs through December 31, 2022. (The original dates were October 31, 2020; July 1, 2021; and December 31, 2021.) This update supersedes any prior guidance by CoAEMSP.



#### **Read more**

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### **EMS CE Tracking Tool**

By Chris Meyer, EMS Specialist Central Group

A new tool is now available on the EMS-Trauma Systems website to help Emergency Medical Services (EMS) certificate/license holders track their continuing education (CE) hours.

The EMS CE Tracking Tool allows users to enter the names of completed CE courses, the approval number for the CE program where each course is completed, and the number of hours earned for each content area(s). The tracking tool is designed to calculate the total hours entered in all columns to determine, by certification level, whether the required continuing education hours for Texas EMS CE certification renewal have been met. EMS personnel utilizing this tool will need to ensure that they are referencing the correct certification level at the bottom of the spreadsheet when determining whether they have completed adequate CE hours to submit their renewal application.

The EMS CE Tracking Tool is not a new requirement for renewing an EMS certification/license using the Continuing Education option, and it does not need to be submitted with license renewal. It is meant to be a tool to help ensure that the minimum amount of CE required for renewal is completed by tracking the CE hours obtained during the EMS certificate holder's licensing period.

It is recommended that personnel save the completed spreadsheet as part of their CE records. If selected for a continuing education audit after submitting a license renewal, the completed CE Tracking Tool spreadsheet, along with copies of CE completion certificates and the jurisprudence course/exam certificate, will be submitted to the Department as proof that CE requirements have been met for license/certification renewal.

To access the EMS CE Tracking Tool, visit the Continuing Education page of our website.



The Department recently received a question about out-of-hospital do-not-resuscitate (OOH DNR) orders and the non-emergent transport of a hospice patient by ambulance.

- What is the proper protocol if a hospice patient expires during transport from a healthcare facility to either their home or another facility when an OOH-DNR order is in place?
- Do you continue to your destination or stop and call law enforcement to your location?

We researched the topic and spoke with many individuals (Justice of the Peace, EMS Supervisors in rural areas, etc.) regarding this question. After determining that there are no legal parameters surrounding this issue, the responsibility to establish a protocol/procedure ultimately falls upon your Medical Director, in conjunction with local law enforcement.

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### National Association of EMS Educators Instructor Courses Level 1 & 2

Visit naemse.org to register for online and select in-person courses.

All experience levels welcome!

The National Association of EMS Educators is offering Instructor 1 & 2 courses. The course content introduces a broad span of educational theory that is heavily reliant on brain-based learning and evidence-based best practices for all levels of experience as an EMS educator. View course flyer and visit NAEMSE for more information.

#### **Upcoming classes:**

#### **Online IC1 Dates**

April 22-24, 2022 April 29-May 1, 2022 May 13-15, 2022 June 3-5, 2022 June 10-12, 2022 June 24-26, 2022 July 8-10, 2022

#### **Online IC2 Dates**

April 30-May 1, 2022 May 21-22, 2022 July 16-17, 2022

#### **In-person**

June 10-12, 2022 (Hurst, TX)





**More Information HERE** 

**Nominate HERE** 

### 2022 EMS for Children Crew of the Year nominations are now open!

Nominate an EMS crew or station who has displayed outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event, demonstrated exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs, or was instrumental in planning and conducting creative injury prevention programs.

The awards will be presented to the winning nomination during a ceremony on the National Emergency Medical Services for Children day on May 18, 2022.

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### **National Registry Pass Rates**

**2021** 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter statistics include Texas EMS program pass rates compared to the overall national average.

#### **NATIONAL AVERAGE**

ECA 75% EMT 74% EMTP 85%

#### **TEXAS AVERAGE**

**ECA 72%** 

**EMT 79%** 

**AEMT 69%** 

**EMTP 85%** 

#### **Cumulative pass rates**

These numbers represent the percentage of those who attempted the exam and passed within six attempts.



#### PROGRAM STATISTICS

View the complete list of Texas education program pass rates

The National Registry-Texas Pass Percentage list includes:

- Program name
- First attempt pass rates
- Cumulative pass rates within 3 attempts
- Cumulative pass rates within 6 attempts

A pass rate with a low number of students may not be indicative of a program's capabilities.

#### **GET IN TOUCH**

We're available to discuss improvement strategies for Texas EMS education programs.

State EMS Director, Joseph Schmider

EMS Manager North, Valerie Tumlinson

EMS Education Coordinator, Mattie Mendoza

EMS Manager East, Joey Ancelet

EMS Manager South, Jaime Vallejo

National Registry Website

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### **EMS Education Programs**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reviews EMS educational programs to determine eligibility to conduct EMS certification courses.

Here are five things to know, and additional information can always be found on our website.

Policy 2022-A: EMS Education Programs-out of state courses (clinical/field and skills proficiency)

This policy establishes guidelines for EMS Education Programs that plan on offering courses to students seeking Texas licensure who reside outside of Texas. The policy is established to ensure appropriate oversight by the program, medical director, and in the clinical/field setting and/or skills proficiency testing site. It also assures DSHS that other states are aware of and have approved the program offering courses in their respective state. See policy and list of required documents.

Course Application requirements

Reminder, DSHS requires you to submit any upcoming course applications at least 30 days prior to the proposed start date of the course. Please see the EMS Education Course Notifications Application Checklist as a reference prior to submitting a course application. It can be found on the DSHS EMS Education Programs webpage.

**EMS CE Programs** 

When renewing a CE Program, please remember to upload a current 2-Year CE plan with the renewal application. Please see the Continuing Education Programs Renewal Application Checklist on the DSHS EMS Education Programs webpage.

Texas Jurisprudence Exam

Programs must be approved to conduct the Texas Jurisprudence Exam in order for students to meet the EMS Personnel Jurisprudence Renewal requirement. You will find Jurisprudence Exam material and a list of CE programs currently approved to offer the Texas EMS Jurisprudence Exam on the DSHS EMS Education Programs webpage.

Current COVID Waivers

Waiver-in-place students can do their field clinicals in hospitals, ambulances, or any place where they can touch a live patient, as long as the EMS Education Program Medical Director has given approval.

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#### **RULES - CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

The following table reflects the current rules that are in the amendment process. The Perinatal Rules specific to maternal and neonatal programs have the opportunity for stakeholder comments and feedback through the Perinatal Advisory Council. The EMS, Trauma, and Stroke programs have the opportunity for stakeholder comment and feedback through the GETAC structure.

Rule	Name	Status	Adoption Date	Effective Date
• 157.122	TSA	Adopted	2/17/2022	March 1, 2022
• 157.133	Stroke	Adopted	2/17/2022	September 1, 2022: All stroke facilities will be accountable to the new requirements. All stroke surveys will follow the new requirements.
Amendments:  • 133.201  • 133.202  • 133.203  • 133.204  • 133.205  • 133.206  • 133.207  • 133.208  • 133.210  New:  • 133.211	Hospital Level of Care Designations for Maternal Care and Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder (HB 1164, 87th)	Continuing through the rule process. Informal comments reviewed and integrated into the rules as appropriate.	9/11/2022	October 2022: Maternal facilities must integrate the Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder (PASD) into their Maternal Program Plan.  January 1, 2023: Designated maternal facilities are accountable for the new criteria to include the PASD. These elements will be included in the site survey process.
Amendments:	Neonatal	Continuing through the Rules Coordination Office (RCO)	10/25/2022	June 1, 2023: All neonatal facilities are accountable for meeting the requirements of the new rules. All designation surveys after June 1, 2023, will align with the new requirements.

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Rule	Name	Status	Adoption Date	Effective Date
• 157.2, • 157,123 • 157.125 • 157.128 • 157.130 • 157.131	Trauma	Will enter RCO activities on June 7, 2022	4/23/2023	September 1, 2023: All facilities must be compliant. All trauma designation surveys after September 1, 2023, will follow the new requirements. 157.123 elements specific to the RAC criteria selfassessment begin September 2023 and accountable to only the trauma and EMS aspects of the criteria and self-assessment for 2023 and 2024.
• 157.41	Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for Public Access (SB 199; 87-R)	Continuing through the RCO process	7/8/2022	July 13, 2022: Repeal of the Automated External Defibrillators responsibilities from EMS- Trauma Systems Section
• 157.11	Dialysis Protocols for EMS Providers (SB 1876)	Continuing through the RCO process	10/21/2022	October 24, 2022: Medical directors for EMS providers will approve protocols that give preference to the emergency transfer of a dialysis patient from the patient's location directly to an outpatient end- stage renal disease facility during a declared disaster.

#### **SENATE BILL 8**

#### **EMS Recruitment and Retention Project**

The Department has received the recommendations from the task force led by the Texas EMS Alliances and the Texas Ambulance Association. They are currently being reviewed, and processes are being developed.

#### The proposed areas to receive funding are:

- Media campaign
- EMS website for recruitment
- Contract workforce staff placement in RACs
- Education program incentives and equipment
- Grants for initial certification and upgrades for the current and future EMS workforce

Meetings continue to happen weekly as DSHS and our EMS stakeholders move this project forward together. Watch for updated information to be provided.

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#### **RULES - DISCUSSIONS**

These rules are currently being discussed with stakeholders to identify needed amendments. Items identified for consideration are reviewed through the GETAC structure for recommendations.

Rules	Responsible Individual	Timeline
<ul> <li>EMS Rules</li> <li>EMS Provider Licenses and Applications</li> <li>157.4, Audits</li> <li>157.5, Rule Exemption Requests</li> <li>157.11, Requirements for an EMS Provider License</li> <li>157.12, Rotor-wing Air Ambulance Operations</li> <li>157.13, Fixed-wing Air Ambulance Operations (Ongoing work is being conducted with the Air Committee of GETAC on drafting amendments to 157. 12 and 13.)</li> <li>157.14, Requirements for First Responder Organization Registration</li> </ul>	Joe Schmider	Fall 2022
<ul> <li>EMS Rules Continued</li> <li>Currently in Discussion with Stakeholders:</li> <li>157.16, Emergency Suspension, Suspension, Probation, Revocation or Denial of a Provider License</li> <li>157.25, Out-of-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)</li> <li>157.36, Criteria for Denial and Disciplinary Actions for EMS Personnel and Voluntary Surrender of a Certificate or License157.37, Certification or Licensure of Persons with Criminal Backgrounds</li> <li>157.49, EMS Operator and Operator Instructor Training and Certification</li> </ul>	Joe Schmider	Spring 2023
Medical Advisory Board Consideration after Legislature: • Title 25 Part I Chapter L Subchapter 1 Section 1.51 Definitions and Section 1.152 Operation of The Medical Advisory Board (Adopted in 1999)	Indra Hernandez	Fall 2023

#### **GETAC ACTIVITIES**

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) met on Friday, March 11, 2022, for the first quarter meeting.

#### Two motions were passed during the meeting.

- Add the following statement to the GETAC Standard Operating Procedures: "Committee members must complete an annual conflict-of-interest statement each year and send the statement to the Committee Chair and Council Chair prior to the first quarter GETAC meeting for review."
- Add the following statement to the GETAC Standard Operating Procedures: "Each Council member will
  complete a conflict-of-interest statement annually and forward the statement to the Council Chair prior to
  the first quarter meeting."

The second quarter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2002.

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#### **GETAC APPOINTMENTS**

Governor Greg Abbott has made seven appointments to the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. The council recommends changes to the EMS/Trauma System to ensure that communities receive comprehensive and efficient emergency care.

**Peter Marocco** of Dallas is an investor and the Managing Director of Endstate Strategies LLC. He is a Club for Growth Foundation fellow and serves on the advisory board for the Foreign Policy Research Institute. Marocco received a Bachelor of Science in International Affairs from Florida State University and Master of International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford. **Term expires on January 1, 2026.** 

**Billy "Scott" Lail** of Glen Rose is the Fire Chief for the City of Cleburne Fire Department. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Texas Fire Chief's Association and a former member of the International Association of Firefighters. He volunteers as the Deacon at Stephenville Christian Reformed Church. Lail received an associate's degree in Fire Science from Cleburne Hill College. **Term expires on January 1, 2028.** 

**Daniel "Danny" Ramirez** of San Juan is the EMS Chief for the City of Pharr. He is a member of the Texas City Managers Association and the Texas EMS Association. He also volunteers for the Pharr Volunteer Fire Department. Ramirez received a degree as an Emergency Medical Technician from Texas State Technical College. **Term expires on January 1, 2028.** 

**Katherine** "Kate" Remick, M.D. of Austin is an associate professor for Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, and serves as the Medical Director for San Marcos Hays County EMS System. She is a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, National Association of EMS Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Steering Committee. Additionally, she is the Medical Director for the Emergency Pediatric Care Course with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, volunteer for the Research Leadership Group for ESO Solutions, and co-director for the National Pediatric Readiness Project. Remick received a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Arizona and a Doctor of Medicine from The University of Texas Medical Branch. **Term expires on January 1, 2028.** 

**Jeffery "Jeff" Barnhart** of Canyon is the CEO of the Deaf Smith County Hospital District in Hereford and serves as an adjunct professor at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Emergency Medical Task Force-1. Additionally, he is a member of Hereford Lions Club and volunteer board member of the Turn Center. Barnhart received a Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Management from Ottawa University and a Master of Science in Clinical Practice Management from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. **Term expires on January 1, 2028.** 

**Ruben A. Martinez** of Concepcion is President and CEO of Zenitram Enterprises, LLC. He served on the Youth Advisory Board for the National Institute of Health and the COVID Prevention Network. He is the former President of the Chancellors Student Advisory Council for the Texas A&M System and former Student Body President at Texas A&M University–Kingsville. Martinez received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas A&M University–Kingsville. **Term expires on January 1, 2028.** 

**Ryan Matthews** of Holliday is the President and CEO of Trans Star Ambulance in Wichita Falls and is a licensed paramedic. He is a member of the Texas EMS Alliance, American Ambulance Association, and the Texas State Firemen and Fire Marshal's Association. Additionally, he is a volunteer fireman and first responder for Holliday Fire and Rescue and serves as a North Texas representative for the Emergency Medical Task Force. Matthews received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from Texas Tech University. **Term expires on January 1, 2028.** 

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### **Texas Wristband Project**

The Texas Wristband Project has been underway in the State for over a year now. As more RACs, hospitals, and EMS providers get the project rolled out, we expect the aqua Texas Wristband to become more and more familiar to all who work in the emergency healthcare system. As a reminder, the Texas Wristband is a simple band that is applied by EMS to a patient that is transported to the hospital. It has a number that is documented by the EMS provider and by the hospital in their EMR system. Our target date for full implementation statewide is December 2022.



#### **EMR Progress**

As each Region builds toward full implementation, EMS providers, hospitals, and electronic medical record (EMR) vendors continue to work out their wristband fields. So far, Baylor Scott & White Health has created a field to capture the number in Epic. Texas Health Resources (THR) and HCA Healthcare have also made the system-wide implementation in Texas. ESO in Texas captures the number in the Patient Number field. ImageTrend has also included the capability since the last update. Ascension Texas expects to have the field available for their next major update. We know that others are working on it as well, but we just haven't received their update yet.

#### **Provider Feedback**

While we've gotten a lot of positive feedback about the ease of implementation and the potential uses of the wristband, we would like to hear from you. What has been your experience with the Texas Wristband? Send us your feedback at creeves@hotrac.org or fvilla@hotrac.org. We are working to collect the status from all RACs for their Regions; we will have the results in our article for the next issue.

I want to leave you with one of our success stories: "Some EMS services have had better success acquiring patient follow-up with the hospitals by using wristband numbers. Since it should only be known by the transporting agency, hospitals feel more comfortable releasing patient status."



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### as month of May is dedicated to our healthcare horses who work tirelessly to support the health and well

The month of May is dedicated to our healthcare heroes who work tirelessly to support the health and wellness of the people in their community. Please join us in thanking our Texas EMS and nursing personnel as we recognize them for their unfailing commitment to meet the needs of those placed in their care.

Along with recognizing our hometown heroes, May is also dedicated to bringing awareness to the importance

#### **Nurses Month**

The 2022 theme for Nurses Month is "You Make a Difference." Whether advocating for patients, educating the community, or easing pain and discomfort with compassion and care, nurses impact the health and well being of their community – they truly do make a difference.

#### **Learn more**

of preventing violence and traumatic injury in your community, as well as being prepared when traumatic bleeding occurs.

#### **Trauma Awareness Month**

In response to the rise in violence during the pandemic, the National Trauma Awareness Month (NTAM) campaign theme for 2022 is "Safe Surroundings," with the focus on "preventing injuries from violence and promoting peace...community by community."

#### **Learn more**

#### National EMS Week - May 15 - 21, 2022

Rain, shine, sleet, or snow – when the call comes in, EMS is ready to go. The Texas EMS workforce responds to any challenge from any call on any given day, so the 2022 theme "EMS: Rising to the Challenge" for National EMS Week is proudly fitting.

#### Learn more

#### STOP THE BLEED® Day - May 19, 2022

The STOP THE BLEED® Texas Coalition aims to increase awareness about traumatic bleeding and get Texans trained to "stand in the gap" until EMS arrives. The Texas Coalition will offer hybrid training classes from every corner of the Lone Star State on May 19th, National STOP THE BLEED® Day.

#### **Learn more**

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#### **NEWS**

NHTSA's EMS Update: Learn more about current projects and efforts in EMS from NHTSA and its Federal partners.

CDC Newsroom: View the latest CDC public health news and press releases.

Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons: *The* Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons *is* published monthly by the American College of Surgeons.

Washington Update: The Washington Update is produced bi-monthly by the National Association of State EMS Officials in cooperation with NHTSA OEMS, with funds also provided by HHS EMSC.

NACo County News: The voice of American counties.

EMSC Pulse: The EMSC Pulse Newsletter is a digest of program news and activities. Each issue includes a wealth of information about the pediatric emergency medical care community.

Integrated Healthcare Delivery: Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.

External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services. These sites may also not be accessible to persons with disabilities.

### Sign Up for E-mail Updates



#### Links

GETAC: Visit the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council web page to view council, committees, and meeting information

Rules: This page contains links to the Texas Administrative Code rules pertaining to EMS/Trauma Systems.

Disciplinary actions: This page provides public notice of disciplinary action by the Department of State Health Services and the Consumer Protection Division, Consumer Safety Unit.

Staff Contacts: This page provides contact information for the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems staff and programs.

Preparedness: The Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response is to provide public health leadership and improve health and well-being in Texas.

Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program: The program, spearheaded by the Texas legislature, provides a 30-year fixed rate home loan to Texas EMS personnel, firefighters, peace officers and others. In addition, this program offers down payment and closing cost assistance of up to 5% of the mortgage loan amount, in the form of a grant.





Texas Department of State Health Services

Questions, comments or suggestions about Texas EMS Trauma News? Contact us at EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us.