



## Establishing Quality Measures for Patient Care

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Dear NEMSQA members,

Many of us looked forward with anticipation to 2021 glad to say goodbye to challenges of 2020. While we still see the COVID-19 Pandemic challenging our health care system in many regions, the distribution and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to front line healthcare workers and high-risk individuals gives us hope for overcoming these challenges. NEMSQA begins 2021 with excitement as we get back on track after the delays of 2020. One such delay has been invoicing for the 2021 Annual Membership dues. We are currently rectifying that and sending those invoices and would ask for your support in ensuring that your organization continues its participation and financial support of NEMSQA. NEMSQA accomplished several milestones and experienced great progress in 2020 and we are confident NEMSQA will continue to reach new heights with exciting new opportunities in 2021. You will not want to miss out!

We look forward to regular updates through our quarterly general membership meetings starting in April but here is an update on NEMSQA's activities until then.

Michael Redlener, MD, FAEMS  
President of the Board, NEMSQA

SAVE THE DATE



### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2021

- ✓ APRIL 22ND 2:00-3:00 CT/3:00-4:00 ET
- ✓ JULY 15TH 2:00-3:00 CT/3:00-4:00 ET
- ✓ OCTOBER 21ST 2:00-3:00 CT/3:00-4:00 ET

## **NEMSQA Highlights**

### **Staff Updates**

NEMSQA welcomes Sheree Murphy as the Executive Director for NEMSQA. Sheree comes to us with 15 years of experience working in quality improvement, systems of care and strategic partnerships. In her previous roles she has worked with a variety of healthcare stakeholders including hospitals and health systems, EMS providers, and departments of health on initiatives including measure development and alignment as well as quality data and reporting. She also planned and managed the implementation of private and government grant funded system of care initiatives for cardiovascular disease and stroke. Sheree's support will help us to focus on strategic vision and planning for the future of NEMSQA.

### **F.A.I.R Project Update**

The FAIR project has accelerated and recently completed the measure specification phase. At the end of 2020 we completed the initial classification, harmonization, and prioritization to select measures that would move to measure development. All NEMSQA members were invited to participate in 2 workgroups that completed the research and specification components of NEMSQA's measure development process. The Evidence Based Guidelines & Literature Review Working Group reviewed and scored guidelines and evidence to determine if there enough support for further development of the measure and the Measure Specifications Working group detailed the technical specifications for the measures. We thank those of you who have volunteered to support this effort through joining the workgroups. The next phase is the launch of public comment to get community input on the measures. We look forward to your participation.

### **NEMSQA Webinar**

NEMSQA hosted its first webinar on December 3, 2020, EMS Performance: NEMSQA Quality Measures. The webinar reviewed the background, history and process for development of the NEMSQA EMS Quality Measures and the benefit of implementation of quality measures in EMS. The webinar concluded with practical steps to choosing and implementing quality measures with real-life case example of the quality measures in action. The webinar was recorded and is posted to the NEMSQA website <https://www.nemsqa.org/resources/>. We look forward to planning follow-up webinars as we seek to support implementation of the NEMSQA EMS measures.

## **Membership Update**

NEMSQA is excited to share an updated membership and partnership structure to accommodate more diverse and inclusive representation. This new structure will provide for additional organization and association membership levels as well as offer individual and EMS Agency membership and corporate partnership. We look forward to sharing this new structure in April!

## **Pre-Hospital Guidelines Consortium Collaboration**

Dr. Redlener provided an update on NEMSQA's activities at the January Annual meeting of the pre-Hospital Guidelines Consortium. The PGC members were invited to take part in the F.A.I.R. Project Measure Development process as part of the Evidence Based Guidelines & Literature Review Working Group. Additionally, both organizations have identified a representative to liaise between the organizations to support aligned efforts. We look forward to this ongoing collaboration.

## **FirstWatch and National EMS Quality Alliance Partnership**

In 2020, FirstWatch became the first industry sponsor of NEMSQA. FirstWatch, a technology and quality improvement company that supports public safety and healthcare organizations, has joined forces with the National EMS Quality Alliance to support its efforts to develop, test and validate quality measures for emergency medical services. Both FirstWatch and NEMSQA have similar missions: to achieve better patient outcomes by helping emergency medical services clinicians and organizations measure and improve care. Combining FirstWatch's expertise in using data and implementing improvement efforts with NEMSQA's evidence-based approach to measure development will ensure that EMS continues to advance as a profession. See the full announcement on the NEMSQA website: [https://www.nemsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NEMSQA-and-FirstWatch-Announcement\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.nemsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NEMSQA-and-FirstWatch-Announcement_FINAL.pdf)

We look forward to sharing more on our next General Membership meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup>.