



NATIONAL EMS QUALITY ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

October 2019

NEMSQA IS NOW AN INCORPORATED ENTITY

On September 20, 2019, the National EMS Quality Alliance became an official 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation in the state of Texas. Before this date, NEMSQA was part of a Cooperative Agreement between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). While NEMSQA will continue to work closely with NHTSA and will receive management services from ACEP, being a standalone entity allows NEMSQA to have more flexibility in its work developing measures to improve quality in the EMS community.

EMS COMPASS MEASURE SET RELEASED

The National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA) is excited to announce the release of a revised EMS Compass Measure Set. The [NEMSQA web site](#) describes the measures in detail and includes a technical information packages necessary for quality, research, and IT professionals to extract data and implement the measures in their EMS service. Each measure has a narrative, which tells the story of how the measure is significant and why it was developed. The narratives assist in understanding the value of using the measures for performance improvement in every type and size EMS agency.

Michael Redlener, the Chair of the Measurement Development Committee and Board Trustee said, “NEMSQA is excited to be part of the historic effort to identify and validate meaningful EMS quality measures that can support local, state, and national efforts to improve clinical care and safety for patients. We thank our partner agencies and NHTSA for support in this important effort. The publication of the updated EMS Compass Measures represents the culmination of more than a decade of work by many people and organizations dedicated to measuring and improving care in EMS.”

The EMS Compass Measure Set was originally developed by the National Association of State EMS Officials with funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). After a rigorous research and development period, fourteen candidate measures were released for public testing in 2016.

To continue development and update these important measures, NHTSA awarded the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) a contract to carry forward the EMS Performance Measures initiative. This included reviewing and revising the candidate EMS Compass Measures and, out of this initiative, the National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA) was formed. Now its own organization, NEMSQA established its own rigorous measure development process they will use to create measures for improving EMS care. Over the past seven months, the NEMSQA measure development process,

including phases of research, specification, and testing, was applied to the candidate EMS Compass Measures, and informed revisions and re-specifications to the measures.

In August 2019, the NEMSQA Measure Development Committee and Board of Trustees approved eleven of the re-specified Compass measures for continuation in the revised measure set. NEMSQA finalized these measures and developed accompanying resources that stakeholders will find valuable to the EMS community.

“The updated website provides everything an EMS quality improvement manager needs to start basic data measurement for improvement of patient care. We hope to build a network of quality professionals who will utilize and provide feedback on these measures, so we can continually improve the measure set as well as our EMS systems,” noted Brooke Burton, NEMSQA Trustee and Communications Committee Chair.

To learn more about the revised EMS Compass Measures, including information on specific measures, visit <http://www.nemsqa.org/completed-quality-measures/>.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION RESULTS

The NEMSQA Board of Trustees recently held their annual member elections for 2019 – 2020. The original Board terms were staggered at one, two, and three years so that moving forward 1/3 of the Board positions would be up for election every year. Paul Brennan and Joe Penner were re-elected to the Board for three-year terms. Jonathan Washko was elected as a new Board member for a three-year term, replacing Dr. Peter Taillac who decided not to run for another term. Sam Vance was also elected as a new Board member for a one-year term to fill a vacancy on the Board that had been assigned an initial two-year term.

The Board also held their officer elections for 2019 – 2020 through online electronic ballot. Mike Hall was re-elected as President, Michael Redlener, MD, was elected as Vice President, and Chief Mike McEvoy was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

The 2019-2020 NEMSQA Board of Trustee members are:

STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

American Ambulance Association

Mike Hall – term 2018-2020

President – 2019-2020

mikeh@naturecoastems.org

International Association of EMS Chiefs

Paul Brennan – term 2019 - 2022

paul.brennan@iaemsc.org

International Association of Fire Chiefs

Chief Mike McEvoy, PhD, NRP, RN, CCRN – term 2018 - 2020

Secretary/Treasurer 2019-2020

Mcevoymike@aol.com

National Association of EMS Physicians

Michael Redlener, MD, FAEMS – term 2018 - 2021

Vice President 2019-2020

Michael.Redlener@mountsinai.org

National Association of EMT's

Jonathan Washko, MBA, FACPE, NRP, AEMD – term 2019 - 2022

jwashko@nshs.edu

National EMS Management Association

Brooke Burton, NRP – term 2018- 2021

Brooke.Burton@falck.com

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES

Air Medical Physician Association

Robert Chaplin, MD, FAAP – term 2018 - 2021

rchaplin@childrensomaha.org

National EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center

Sam Vance, MHA, LP – term 2019 - 2020

Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu

Academy of International Mobile Health Integration

Joe Penner – term 2019 - 2022

jpenner@MEDIC911.com

AUGUST 2019 FACE-TO-FACE MEETING SUMMARIES

Board of Trustees

The NEMSQA Board of Trustees (BOT) met face-to-face on Tuesday August 6, 2019 in Irving, TX. Six Board members attended the meeting, along with two federal partner representatives and four members from the management organization. The primary agenda item for this meeting was to review and vote on the proposed EMS Compass Measures recommended for approval by the Measure Development Committee. After a thorough review of the committee's recommendations, the Board approved eleven measures for public release.

In addition to approving the EMS Compass measures, other highlights from the Board meeting included setting new objectives for the Measure Development Committee, appointing a new committee to support and grow Alliance membership, and approving a revised business plan.



Board members, partners, and staff enjoying dinner and conversation the evening before the Board Meeting.

Measure Development Committee

The NEMSQA Measure Development Committee (MDC) held a face-to-face meeting on Monday August 5, 2019 at the national headquarters of the American College of Emergency Physicians in Irving, TX. NEMSQA and the MDC had been tasked with reviewing and re-specifying the original EMS Compass Candidate measures, first released in 2016, and the purpose of this meeting was to review and finalize the re-specified measures.



Dr. Jeffrey Jarvis (left) and Jonathan Washko (right) discussing measure specifications.

First beginning the EMS Compass project in February 2019, the MDC worked for several months, using the NEMSQA Measure Development Process to review and re-specify the candidate measures. Using this process, the measures went through rigorous research, specification, and testing phases. Some of the concluding steps of this work took place during the meeting on August 5, as committee members and external stakeholders came together to review specifications, testing data, public comments, and other information on each measure.

The final measure set for 2019-2020, which was released in late September 2019, contains eleven measures. These measures have been approved by both the MDC and the NEMSQA Board of Trustees. Three of the original EMS Compass candidate measures were retired from the measure set, due to changes in clinical guidelines and/or feasibility issues.

More information on the finalized measures, including resources that have been developed can be found at <http://www.nemsqa.org/completed-quality-measures>

CMS EMERGENCY TRIAGE, TREAT, AND TRANSPORTATION (ET3) MODEL

The NEMSQA Board has been monitoring the development of the CMS ET3 demonstration project. Several Board Officers and leaders participated in a conference call with the CMS ET3 team and briefed them on the history of the EMS Compass

project and the work that NEMSQA has done in the last 18 months. The Board offered their assistance to the ET3 team since quality patient care was identified as an important part of the demonstration project by CMS.

At present, the CMS ET3 team will consider reaching out to NEMSQA if they need additional assistance or contributions from the group.

PREHOSPITAL GUIDELINES CONSORTIUM

The NEMSQA Board and several members of the Measurement Development Committee met recently with Dr. Chris Martin-Gill who leads the [Prehospital Guidelines Consortium](#) (PGC) to discuss collaboration between the two groups. The PGC was started through funding much like the EMS Compass project and NEMSQA and works to promote the development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based guidelines for prehospital care. While no final decisions were made, the Boards of both organizations continue to explore ways NEMSQA and the PGC can collaborate in the future.

CONTACT US

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