

January 26, 2010

Texas Air Medical Stakeholders,

As you are aware the stakeholders of the State of Texas identified the need for more oversight and rules by the Department of State Health and Human Services (DSHS) for Air Medical Providers in 2006. The GETAC Air Medical Committee appointed an Alternate Survey Process (ASP) Work Group (now known as Texas Air Medical Licensure Work Group) to develop a solution based on aviation and patient safety best practices and to define what an equivalent, but non-preempted, licensing process could look like.

After extensive research, we recommend an enhanced State Rule that follows current Air Medical, EMS and Business Practices, to be verified through a Licensure Process. This Licensure Rule, with an independent site survey, will ensure responsibility and consistency of our Air Medical providers in their endeavor to provide quality care to patients. This solution, however, will not dictate the level of care provided, but rather will validate the Providers process for initiating and sustaining their program in line with industry standards.

Components within our proposed draft Rule for 157.12 and 157.13 include:

- Planning and Preparation
- Credentialing of Air Medical Providers
- Professional Development
- Protocol Standards of Care
- Operational Standards
- Communication Center Standards
- Base and Facility Standards
- Safety Standards
- Quality Improvement
- Committee Involvement
- Qualified Medical Direction
- Defined Critical Failures to Accreditation

By defining our own Rule we take charge of our future within this State and return the rightful place of oversight back upon ourselves to incorporate best practices from across our industry. This will be a unique solution to a growing problem of federal preemption with CAMTS and Air Medical Providers.

During the Air Medical Committee Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Texas Air Medical Licensure Work Group was charged with:

- Relocation of supporting documentation within the Program Guide which did not directly support the Rule Language.
- Change the name of the Texas Accreditation Process (TAP) Draft document to the Texas Air Medical Licensure Rule.
- Review, obtain input and edit to ensure inclusion of neonatal and pediatric specific standards.
- Review, obtain input and edit to ensure inclusion of standards specific to fixed wing providers.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the Air Medical Industry. We look forward to your contribution, ideas and solutions.

Regards,



Alicia Wiren LP, FP-C

GETAC Air Medical Committee

Texas Air Medical Licensure Work Group, Chair