

Texas EMS Trauma News

Fall 2016

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Neonatal Designation Is Here

DSHS Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination began accepting applications for neonatal level of care designation on September 1, 2016. There are 4 levels of designation that a facility can achieve. Facilities must be designated by September 1, 2018 to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

The Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination has provided a series of webinars to guide providers through the designation process. They will introduce and review requirements for the four levels of designation and go over the new applications. Video recordings of the webinars can be found on the Neonatal Designation home page at <http://dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/neonatal.aspx>. To access them you will need to enter your name and email address once you click on the video link. Applications can be found at <http://dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/formsresources.shtm#neonatal>.

For technical difficulties, general information call or email:

Jewell Potter, Neonatal Program Specialist- 512-834-6743 jewell.potter@dshs.state.tx.us

For process or rule clarification questions call or email

Debbie Lightfoot, RN- 512-834-6700 ext. 2032 debra.lightfoot@dshs.state.tx.us

Designation Program Manager- Neonatal, Stroke and Trauma

Elizabeth Stevenson, RN- 512-834-6794 elizabeth.stevenson@dshs.state.tx.us

Governor Abbott appoints six to Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services and Trauma

In July, Governor Greg Abbott named Robert Greenberg, M.D. chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on EMS and Trauma (GETAC). Jeffery Barnhart, Mike Clements, Sheila Faske were appointed to the GETAC Council, as well. Governor Abbott also reappointed Ryan Matthews and Dr. Robert Vezetti.

For more information on these appointments: <http://gov.texas.gov/news/appointment/22497>

Administrator of Record requirements:

Cannot be employed by another private for-profit EMS Provider

Be an EMT or licensed/certified in Texas in a related health care profession directly related to EMS

Submit to criminal history record check

Complete an initial education course approved by the State

Annually 8 hours of continuing education related to the state laws and rules related to EMS

- The annual 8 hours of continuing education must be completed yearly.
- You can take any documented education on EMS operations such as: Rules, Billing, Operations. At this year's Texas EMS Conference over 15 hours of CE for AORs will be offered.
- Patient care continuing education **does not** meet the continuing education requirement for an AOR.
- Be able to provide documentation on the course you took, including course outline and documented evidence of completion.
- Any questions please contact Joe Schmider at 512-834-6737 or email Joseph.Schmider@DSHS.State.Tx.Us.

EMS RULES Update

- Public comment period ended on September 12th.
- The Department is reviewing the comments received by email or from the public hearing on September 9th.
- The Department will comment on each comment received in the final adoption documents.
- Once the adoption documents are completed they will be forwarded to the Commissioner for review and approval.
- When approved by the Commissioner the adopted rules will be published in the *Texas Register*.
- After publication, the Rules will go in effect in 20 days.
- Expected adoption date would be toward the end of the year or first quarter in 2017.

THANK YOU for all of your help and support in developing the proposed rules!

Williamson County EMS receives CAAS accreditation

On September 6, The Williamson County Commissioners Court recognized the accomplishments of Williamson County EMS as they joined 8 other Texas EMS agencies in receiving accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). They join a short list of providers nationwide that exemplify standards established by CAAS to increase operational efficiency and clinical quality, while decreasing risk and liability to the organization.

The CAAS website describes the value of accreditation: "*CAAS accreditation is designed to help EMS agencies increase organizational performance and efficiency, increase clinical quality, and decrease risk and liability. Accreditation provides a template for making comprehensive organization changes that improve the overall performance of the organization. An independent review validates*

that accredited agencies are adhering to the highest standards in the industry". The accreditation process includes a comprehensive self-assessment and an independent external review of the EMS organization.

In Texas the following EMS Providers have met this national standard:

- Acadian Ambulance, Austin
- American Medical Response, Arlington
- Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority, Fort Worth
- Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS), Austin
- East Texas Medical Center Emergency Medical Service, Tyler
- Harris County Emergency Corps, Houston
- LifeNet, Inc., Texarkana
- Plano Fire Department, Plano
- Williamson County EMS

To learn more about CAAS, visit their site at <http://www.caas.org/>.

First Responders and Mesothelioma

by Brianna Meewes

Public Outreach

Mesothelioma Prognosis Network

First responders put their lives on the line to save others' lives every day. First responders include firefighters, police, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and they encounter everything from car accidents, to fires and explosions, to terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

Many of these events can put first responders in contact with asbestos-containing materials. Asbestos can be found in significant quantities in older homes, especially those constructed before 1990; however, anything built after 1990 can still have asbestos present, particularly in roofing and floor materials.

The health risks to first responders begin after asbestos is damaged, as that is when asbestos fibers are released. Once asbestos is airborne, everyone in the vicinity is threatened with exposure.

First responders can't tell when they are being exposed to asbestos, as it is not visible, and should be wary around damaged older buildings. Asbestos exposure does not have an instantaneous effect on health, and can take many years to show any symptoms or problems. Singular events can also have a lasting impact on health.

Terrorist attacks, such as the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001, can release a large amount of asbestos and other chemicals in granulated fragments. This attack released about 400 tons of asbestos, which comprised only .8 percent of the dust. Many other chemicals were also present, over 2,500 different ones, including silica, mercury, and lead.

Natural disasters, such as hurricanes, wildfires and tornados, also damage buildings containing asbestos. First responders face the greatest risk of exposure when rescuing people from old homes, particularly if they are coming in contact with the debris.

The rate of people exposed to asbestos occupationally that eventually get sick is about 20 percent. The health problems can be non-cancerous, such as asbestosis, which is the scarring of lung tissue that impairs breathing, and pleural plaques and pleuritic, which comprises of inflammation and damage to the lining of the lungs. Also, people who develop these conditions still have a risk of asbestos-related cancers.

Mesothelioma, the cancer caused by exposure to asbestos, can take anywhere from 30 to 50 years to develop. The most common form is pleural mesothelioma, which progresses through the lining around the lungs, or the pleura, and causes chest pain, difficulty breathing, and other pulmonary dysfunctions.

First responders should have annual exams and take advantage of cancer screening programs in order to catch these diseases early. An early detection helps increase **survival time**, increasing it to three to five years or more, if treated aggressively with surgery, chemotherapy, and other treatments.

There is help available to first responders who get sick from occupational exposure. The U.S. government, nonprofit organizations, and many in the medical community are available for support.

For more information about mesothelioma, please visit <https://www.mesotheliomaprognosis.com/>.

Welcome new staff at EMS and Trauma Systems

Debbie M. Lightfoot, RN

Neonatal Designation Coordinator for the new Neonatal Designation program. Her clinical background encompasses Emergency and Critical Care, legal nurse consulting, and quality management in an acute care facility.

Shyriecce Norris

Administrative Assistant II for EMS and Trauma systems. Previously worked at the DSHS laboratory.

Sam Vance, MHA, NRP, LP

EMS Program Manager of the Department of State Health Services EMS Compliance – North Group. Prior to coming to DSHS, Sam served as the Program Manager of the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership. Sam has 30 years of emergency medical services experience and spent 20 years as an EMT/paramedic and firefighter/paramedic in St. Louis, Missouri. Additionally, Sam has served our country in the United States Marine Corps.

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.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

FEATURED ARTICLES

Dr. Jon Krohmer named as next director of NHTSA's Office Of Emergency Medical Services

<https://www.naemt.org/advocacy/news/2016/08/24/dr.-jon-krohmer-named-as-next-director-of-nhtsa's-office-of-emergency-medical-services>

San Antonio trauma patients 'opted-in' to participate in drug study

www.kens5.com/story/news/health/2015/08/14/sa-trauma-patients-opted-in-to-participate-in-drug-study/31737709/

7/3/15 ABC News Tired EMS Workers a Prescription for Danger on the Roads, Experts Say

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/tired-ems-workers-prescription-danger-roads-experts/story?id=31876777>

The American Heart Association announced its Gold, Silver and Bronze Award recipients for STEMI care in May including 19 Texas gold winners and a link to the national list which includes the Silver and Bronze award winners in Texas. <http://ccemsnews.com/2015/05/29/ccems-1-in-heart-attack-care-in-texas-gulf-region/>

Additional Reading

Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program: www.tsahc.org/homeownership/loans-down-payment-assistance

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.

Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons: <http://bulletin.facs.org/>

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

Washington Update: <http://www.nasemso.org/NewsAndPublications/TheWashingtonUpdate/>

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.

EMSC Program News: <http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc/currentnews/programnews/>

Ensuring that all children receive appropriate care in a health care emergency.

NACo County News: <http://www.naco.org/newsroom/countynews/Current%20Issue/1-13-14/Pages/default.aspx>

The voice of American counties.

The Pony Express: <https://www.bcm.edu/departments/pediatrics/texasemsc/?pmid=15790>

Official Newsletter of the EMSC State Partnership, Texas.

Integrated Healthcare Delivery: <http://ihdelivery.com/>

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