

## National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

### An Update of National EMS Education Agenda for the Future Implementation Activities

August 2008

The 2000 release of the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* stimulated numerous national EMS *Education Agenda* implementation activities, which are now coming to fruition. When these activities are combined with the ongoing, day-to-day improvements to education, certification, and accreditation, the result can sometimes be a bit confusing. This document should help to clarify what is happening.

#### **Education Agenda Progress**

- ▶ The 2005 *National EMS Core Content* is complete and available at [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov).
- ▶ While the 2006 *National EMS Scope of Practice Model* is complete and available at [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov), we are in the beginning stages of its implementation. States are now reviewing their statutes and administrative rules and making decisions about adoption of the *Scope Model*.
- ▶ The *National EMS Education Standards* are being finalized by the National Association of EMS Educators and will be delivered to NHTSA in September 2008. While NHTSA plans to have the final Standards available in early 2009, the publishers have indicated it will likely be at least two years after that before the first textbooks and supporting materials are available. To find out more about the *Standards* and how to provide input, visit [www.nemses.org](http://www.nemses.org).

#### **National Association of State EMS Officials Activities**

- ▶ Because many of the implementation activities require action by State EMS agencies, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) is leading the effort to develop *Education Agenda* implementation strategies and timetables. The Association formed an implementation team of State directors, training coordinators, and medical directors to help facilitate this effort and their activity will be coordinated with numerous stakeholder organizations.
- ▶ In December 2007, NASEMSO hosted a meeting with national EMS organization leaders in Washington, D.C. Since then, they met with the publishers in March 2008 and hosted a June Webcast that gave an overview of the *Education Agenda* for the State EMS offices.
- ▶ NASEMSO is in the early stages of planning national leadership meetings focusing on strategies to: 1) achieve accreditation for all paramedic education programs (including discussions of how fire-based, vocational education-based, and other similar programs can achieve accreditation); and 2) transition to the *Education Standards* and move existing EMS personnel to the new SOP levels.
- ▶ The team will continue to coordinate their efforts with national organizations and work directly with the States to develop implementation tools and resources and perform regular surveys to keep track of State implementation progress. NASEMSO will host regional meetings and/or Webcasts about the *Education Agenda* and has the ability to provide State technical assistance as requested. More information on NASEMSO activities and upcoming events can be found at: [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org).

### **National Registry of EMTs Activities**

- ▶ As part of its ongoing collaboration with national EMS partners on *Education Agenda* implementation, the Registry has implemented nationwide Computer-Based Testing.
- ▶ The Registry will continue to work closely with the national EMS community to plan for new tests based on the four new EMS personnel levels and to determine when current tests for the existing levels might be discontinued.
- ▶ As recommended in the *EMS Education Agenda* and in the Institute of Medicine Report, the issue of implementing national EMS Program Accreditation continues to be addressed by the collective EMS community. For the paramedic level only, the NREMT Board of Directors has presently targeted a date of January 1, 2013, to begin the phase in of matching accreditation to certification. Final decisions regarding specific policies related to implementation of accreditation will be made in conjunction with the EMS community as 2013 approaches.

### **Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions Activities**

- ▶ Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) continues to work with program directors, education programs, States, and other national EMS partners to implement the *Education Agenda* and to ensure that all paramedic education programs throughout the U.S. are able to achieve accreditation.
- ▶ In September 2008, CoAEMSP and the National Association of EMS Educators are partnering for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Symposium and Trade Show in St. Louis where there will be several accreditation sessions for attendees and an in-depth accreditation post-conference. More information about the Symposium can be found at:  
[http://www.naemse.org/symposium/2008\\_program.pdf](http://www.naemse.org/symposium/2008_program.pdf)
- ▶ CoAEMSP continues to promote the benefits of accreditation at numerous national meetings and during planned State and site visits. The recently released document, “CAAHEP Accreditation Facts: What This Means to EMS,” is intended to better educate the national EMS community about accreditation and how paramedic programs can meet accreditation requirements in the future. This document can be found at:  
<http://www.coaemsp.org/aboutaccreditation.htm>