



IAFC EMS Section Liaison Report

Submit within 2 weeks to klasala@iafc.org and copy to mcevoymike@aol.com

Liaison organization/committee name: NAEMT EMS Economics Committee

IAFC representative name: Chris Shimer

Meeting date and location (note if conference call): August 24 via conference call

Key issues/actions of relevance to IAFC: No key issues or actions of relevance

Any recommendations for action by EMS Section Board of Directors? None at this time

If travel involved, who funded this trip? N/A

Date and location of the next meeting: September 28 via conference call

Date submitted: September 28, 2021

Email contact for questions/follow up: rcshimer@me.com



EMS Economics Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 2 pm CT

Zoom Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Matt Zavadsky (Chair), Chris Hanson, Bryan Nelson, Dennis Rowe, Matthew Streger, Mike Thomas, Dr. Doug Kupas (Technical Advisor), Jimmy Pierson (AAA), Dr. Caleb Ward (AAP Liaison), Jerry Overton (IAED Liaison), Chris Schimer (IAFC Liaison), and Melissa Trumbull (NAEMT Staff).

Meeting Notes:

1. EMS Economics Committee Chair Matt Zavadsky welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order.

2. Debrief of Telehealth in EMS Webinar Series – The Chairman reported NAEMT hosted a webinar series on Telehealth in EMS. Each of the three webinars were on a different topic covering each aspect of a telehealth program; the initial webinar focused on implementing a telehealth program, the next on patient care opportunities, and the final webinar was on financing a telehealth program. The webinars attracted 658 total attendees, averaging around 220 attendees per webinar. The panelists were subject matter experts in each topic area. Attendees responding with glowing evaluations of the content. They appreciated NAEMT providing educational webinars on a variety of topics. The Live webinar recordings can be found on the NAEMT website under the Events section.

3. Federal Activities
 - a. Surprise Billing – [Comments on Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, and the U.S. Treasury Department Interim Final Rule \(IFR\) - While Congress expressly excluded ground ambulance organizations from the statute that the IFR seeks to implement, the Departments have included a prohibition on balance billing for nonemergency ground ambulance transports that occur after a patient has been stabilized in a facility. NAEMT electronically distributed an advocacy alert to all NAEMT members on the IFR with a template letter for submitting organizational or individual comments.](#)

 - b. New Funding Opportunity - [Emergency Rural Health Care Funds Under the American Rescue Plan](#) – The White House Administration announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making up to \$500 million available in grants to help rural health care facilities, tribes and communities expand access to COVID-19 vaccines, health care services and nutrition assistance. Applications are due by October 12.

[The Emergency Rural Health Care Grants will help rural hospitals and local communities increase access to COVID-19 vaccines and testing, medical supplies, telehealth, and food assistance, and support the construction or renovation of rural health care facilities. These investments will also help improve the long-term viability of rural health care providers across the nation.](#)

[Through Recovery and Impact grants, the funds may be used to increase COVID-19 vaccine distribution and telehealth capabilities; purchase medical supplies; replace revenue lost during the pandemic; build and rehabilitate temporary or permanent structures for health care](#)

services; support staffing needs for vaccine administration and testing; and support facility and operations expenses associated with food banks and food distribution facilities.

4. Committee Discussion: Economic Impacts of a Pandemic – The Chairman facilitated a discussion regarding the economic impact upon EMS. This was a continuation from the July agenda.
 - a. New Services and Reimbursement Opportunities – Due to workforce shortage in EMS, agencies are unable to participate in additional COVID-19 response services.
 - b. Mandating Vaccination – NAEMT and other national EMS stakeholders drafted a [Joint Statement on Protecting and Preserving the EMS Workforce in the Face of COVID Surge](#).
 - c. Challenges in the field – Each of the committee members presented the challenges EMS was experiencing. The top issues were:
 - Workforce shortage crisis
 - Low vaccination rates and impending vaccine mandates
 - Offloading and wait times
 - Increased call volume

5. Upcoming Events
 - a. [COVID-19 CLINICAL ROUNDS: EMS](#) – Every Monday at 11 am CT/12 pm ET

 - b. NAEMSP Meeting ET3 Discussion Board Meetings – Every second Monday of month thru November at 1 pm CT: Zoom, <https://wustl-hipaa.zoom.us/j/93449739879?pwd=UDZqeHQ2SCsxdG5TQlV4K1ROcE9yZz09>
Meeting ID: 934 4973 9879, Passcode: 172502

 - c. [NAEMT Annual Meeting and EMS World Expo](#) – October 4-8 in Atlanta, GA
The NAEMT Annual Meeting and EMS World Expo are still planning to offer an in-person event. NAEMT committee meeting will be conducted as open, virtual meetings during the months of September and October. NAEMT members will be invited to experience a standard meeting of our working committees.

6. Next meeting – September at 28 pm CT – Open Committee Meeting to NAEMT members