



AIR AMBULANCE QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY (AAQPS)

Federal Advisory Committee Meeting 1

Meeting Date: December 12, 2024

Note: This Advisory Committee is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), P.L. 92-463 (Oct. 6, 1972), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

This is a public meeting that is being watched live by members of the public and is being recorded. By staying in this meeting, you are consenting to being recorded and for the recording and transcript of this meeting to be posted publicly.

Committee Purpose

The Advisory Committee will advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Transportation on options to establish quality, patient safety, and clinical capability standards for each clinical capability level of air ambulances. The Advisory Committee shall study and make recommendations, as appropriate, to Congress regarding the following with respect to air ambulance services:

1. Qualifications of different clinical capability levels and tiering of such levels.
2. Patient safety and quality standards.
3. Options for improving service reliability during poor weather, night conditions, or other adverse conditions.
4. Differences between air ambulance vehicle types, services, and technologies, and other flight capability standards, and the impact of such differences on patient safety.
5. Clinical triage criteria for air ambulances.

The recommendations will be collated into a report to Congress.

Committee Structure

The Advisory Committee will hold three public meetings. In addition, there will be two subcommittees: a Flight Safety subcommittee and a Clinical Standards subcommittee. Each subcommittee will hold nonpublic meetings and report their recommendations to the main committee during the public meetings.

Meetings will be announced through the Federal Register and registration will be posted at:

<https://www.cms.gov/es/node/1974466>.

Committee Members

Chair:

Jeff Richey, RN, MHA, FACHE

Members:

William Hinckley, MD
Eileen Frazer, RN, CMTE
Jason Clark
Mark Gamber, MD
Jordan Pritzker, MD
Commissioner Grace Arnold
Col. Steven Coffee
Ben Clayton
Jim Houser
Thomas Judge
Paul Julander
Jason Quisling
Robert Reckert

Reference Documents

Please see the CMS Air Ambulance Quality and Patient Safety Committee website for reference and pre-reading materials here: <https://www.cms.gov/es/node/1974466>.

Agenda: First Full Committee Meeting

Overall Meeting Objectives:

- Introduce members of the AAQPS federal advisory committee
- Describe the purpose of the committee
- Provide background information on flight safety and clinical standards
- Identify priority topics for subcommittee discussions

(See next page for agenda)

Agenda: First Full AAQPS Committee Meeting

Introduction and Background		
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Welcome	David Wright (DFO)
	Introduction of Members	Jeff Richey (Chair)
	Overview of the AAQPS	Jeff Richey (Chair)
Overview of the Air Ambulance Industry		
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Overview of the Air Ambulance Industry	Jana Williams, AAMS Jason Quisling, Air Methods, AMOA
	Patient Perspective	Josh Cools, ACCT
	Committee Discussion	
11:30 - 11:40 AM Break		
Regulatory Environment		
11:40 AM – 12:40 PM	Federal Aviation Regulations for Air Ambulance Operations	Nolan Crawford, FAA
	State EMS Perspective	Joseph House, NASEMSO
	Current State of Quality & Patient Safety	Dr. Ron Kline, CMS
	Committee Discussion	
12:40 - 1:25 PM Lunch		
Flight Safety Data and Best Practices		
1:25 - 2:10 PM	Air Ambulance Industry Safety Statistics and Initiatives	Lee Roskop, FAA
	Air Ambulance Flight Safety Practices	Ben Clayton, Life Flight Network
	Committee Discussion	
Clinical Quality Environment		
2:10 - 2:55 PM	Voluntary Certification and Standards	Eileen Frazer, CAMTS
	NEMSIS Overview and Report-out on Current Data and Gaps in Data	Eric Chaney, NTHSA, OEMS

		Dr. Clay Mann, NEMSIS TAC
	Committee Discussion	
2:55 - 3:05 PM	Break	
Public Comments		
3:05 - 3:25 PM		Public
Flight Safety Discussion		
3:25 - 3:55 PM	<p>(Focusing on the Statutorily Required Discussion Topics):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for improving service reliability during poor weather, night conditions, or other adverse conditions Differences between air ambulance vehicle types, services, and technologies, and other flight capability standards, and the impact of such differences on patient safety <p>Committee Discussion</p>	Nolan Crawford, FAA
Clinical Standards Discussion		
3:55 - 4:25 PM	<p>(Focusing on the Statutorily Required Discussion Topics):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical triage criteria for air ambulances Qualifications of different clinical capability levels and tiering of such levels Patient safety and quality standards <p>Committee Discussion</p>	Dr. Sean Michael, CMS
Closing		
4:25 – 5:00 PM	<p>Final Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee final reflections Recommendations for future discussion topics Future meeting dates and agenda Email/procedure for providing additional comments 	Jeff Richey (Chair)