

Advisory Committee on Air Ambulance Quality and Patient Safety (AAQPS) Stakeholder Webinar

October 17, 2024



**Federal Aviation
Administration**



Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Air Ambulance Quality and Patient Safety Advisory Committee (AAQPS Committee)
 - Statutory areas for consideration by the committee
3. Committee Member Overview
4. Committee Meetings Timeline
5. Next steps



Federal Staff Roles

CMS/CCSQ Lead Staff:

- Designated Federal Official: David Wright
- Committee management lead: Ashley Spence
- CCSQ Internal Advisory Council
 - Oversight of the Clinical Standards (CS) Subcommittee

FAA:

- DOT designee on AAQPS committee: Robert Reckert
- Flight standards group: Nolan Crawford and Tom Luipersbeck
 - Oversight of the Flight Safety (FS) Subcommittee
- FACA management:
 - Thuy Cooper, Tyeshia Roberson-Curtis, Uchenna Nwaobilor and David Maxwell

MITRE:

- **Staff:** Tasmeen Weik, Michelle Cantu, Nicky Armour, Kymber Weese, Howard Capon, Claudia McKnight, Teresa Casey, Kim Alberro, Steve Bloom
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Committee management
 - Agenda development
 - Meeting hosting and facilitation
 - Drafting of recommendations and report to congress



AAQPS Overview

Purpose:

- Establish an Advisory Committee on Air Ambulance Quality and Patient Safety for the purposes of reviewing options to improve quality, patient safety, and clinical capability standards for each clinical capability of air ambulances.

Outcome:

- Define innovative approaches to improve quality, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of air ambulance services for safe, quality healthcare.

Committee Deliverable: Report to Congress

- **The No Surprises Act calls for HHS to establish an Advisory Committee to address the following topics in its deliberations and in a subsequent report to Congress:**
 1. Qualifications of different clinical capability levels and tiering of such levels
 2. Patient safety and quality standards
 3. Clinical triage criteria for air ambulances
 4. Options for improving service reliability during poor weather, night conditions, or other adverse conditions
 5. Differences between air ambulance vehicle types, services, and technologies, and other flight capability standards, and the impact of such differences on patient safety

AAQPS Committee Members

HHS Designee



Jeff Richey, RN, MHA, FACHE

Executive Director, Airlift Northwest; Associate Administrator, University of Washington Medical Center

Healthcare Provider



William Hinckley, MD

Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine- University of Cincinnati

Accrediting Bodies Representative



Eileen Frazer, RN, CMTE

Executive Director & Founder of the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems

HHS Additional Representative



Jason Clark

Senior Vice President of Field Operations, APOLLO MedFlight

HHS Additional Representative



Mark Gamber, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Alacura Medical Transport Management

Group Health Plans & Health Insurance Insurers



Jordan Pritzker, MD

Executive Regional Medical Director, Aetna

State Insurance Regulator



Grace Arnold

Commissioner, Commerce Department, Minnesota

AAQPS Committee Members

DOT Designee



Robert Reckert

Division Manager, FAA

DOT Appointee



Ben Clayton

Chief Executive Officer, LifeFlight Network

DOT Appointee



Jim Houser

President of the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania, and CEO of STAT MedEvac

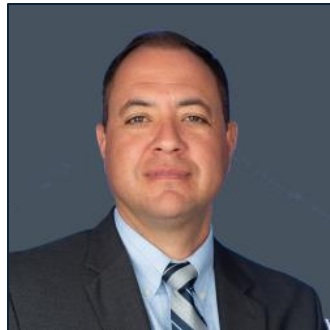
DOT Appointee



Thomas Judge

Founding Executive Director, LifeFlight of Maine

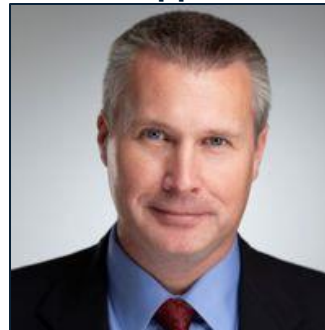
DOT Appointee



Paul Julander

Chief Operating Officer, PHI Health

DOT Appointee



Jason Quisling

Senior Vice President Flight Ops/Air Methods

Patient Advocacy Group



Col. Steven Coffee

Chief of Staff, National Security and Cofounder, Patient Safety U.S.

AAQPS Subcommittees

There will be two subcommittees that will inform the main committee:

Clinical standards:

- Qualifications of different clinical capability levels and tiering of such levels
- Patient safety and quality standards
- Clinical triage criteria for air ambulances

Members:

- Committee members are being selected from those who applied for the main committee.

Flight safety:

- 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

Members:

- DOT appointees on the main AAQPS committee will serve on the subcommittee.



Meetings Schedule

- AAQPS Committee public meetings:
 - **December 12, 2024 10am-5pm ET** (virtual)
 - Tentative dates:
 - February 18, 2025 10am-5pm (virtual)
 - May 8, 2025, 10am-5pm (virtual)
- All public meetings will be live streamed on the CMS YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/user/CMSHHSgov>
- Meeting and other information on the AAQPS can be found at: <https://www.cms.gov/es/node/1974466>
- Agenda development:
 - If you have suggestions for agenda items or wish to discuss a potential agenda item, please contact Michelle Cantu at (mcantu@mitre.org)

Questions

Please enter your questions in the chat.