



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
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March 13, 2020

Dear EMS Standards Project Team,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest draft of the proposed revisions to the national EMS Education Standards. We have noted the most recent additions and changes to the draft document and appreciate the work of the Project Team to incorporate recommendations from the field.

However, we remain concerned that the document named “EMS Education Standards” does not contain actual standards for the education of our EMS workforce. It does not **define the knowledge, skills and behaviors required to deliver quality EMS patient care at the training levels outlined in the national Scope of Practice Model**. Rather it merely lists topical content areas for each training level.

Since last September when we submitted our previous comment on the proposed revision to the EMS Education Standards, we have had further opportunities to discuss these standards with EMS educators from across the country who serve as faculty for our courses. The feedback we received from them was disconcerting. They fully understood that the EMS profession does not have education standards, and that the current documents intended to provide standards are woefully inadequate. They expressed their frustration with the status quo but did not believe that the situation would change with the proposed revision of the standards or the updating of the EMS Education Instructional Guidelines.

We believe that all EMS stakeholders – the educators that seek clear and coherent direction, the EMS practitioners that rely on quality education for their profession, and certainly the patients that receive EMS care – deserve better from our industry’s leadership.

We recognize that the proposed revisions to the EMS Education Standards project is on a pathway to completion that will result in an update to the current standards and instructional guidelines. However, we strongly encourage the project leaders and project sponsor to contemplate the concerns expressed in this letter and consider how true EMS education standards could be developed for the EMS profession.

As we recommended in our September, 2019 comment, we hope consideration will be given to including as education topics the structure and processes of healthcare beyond EMS, principles of public/population health and its connection to EMS, healthcare reimbursement and finance, healthcare quality and safety, and healthcare information; and how these topics impact value-based care. Lack of education on these topics limits the ability of our EMS workforce to fully

understand their role in the wider healthcare system and fully engage as an integrated component of that system. EMS education must evolve as well so that the education provided to EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics is aligned with the provision of emergent, urgent and preventive care in a value-based healthcare system.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Zavadsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Zavadsky, MS-HSA, NREMT
President, NAEMT