



Federal Aviation
Administration

Air Ambulance Quality and Patient Safety Committee (AAQPS Committee) Meeting

Reference Materials

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of key air ambulance resources and guidelines and aims to equip AAQPS Committee members and the general public with the necessary background, data, and insights to guide the December 12, 2024, upcoming discussions on air ambulance quality and patient safety. The documents included are foundational for understanding the current landscape of air ambulance services, with a focus on clinical guidelines, accreditation standards, safety metrics, and utilization practices.

Air ambulance operations are a critical component of emergency medical response systems, providing life-saving services to patients in remote or time-sensitive situations. As such, maintaining the highest standards of safety, clinical care, and operational efficiency is paramount.

- [National Association of State EMS Officials \(NASEMSO\) National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines \(2022\)](#): This document serves as a foundational resource for states in establishing EMS clinical guidelines, including criteria for the appropriate use of air medical transport. It emphasizes the integration of air services into broader EMS systems (pg 14).
- [Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems \(CAMTS\) \(2022\) Accreditation Standards](#): This document outlines guidance on voluntary accreditation standards for air ambulance services, ensuring quality and safety across various service levels. The standards include five key metrics from the GAMUT Metrics List, which are essential for CAMTS certification.
- [Ground & Air Medical Quality in Transport \(GAMUT\) Quality Improvement Consensus Metrics \(2023\)](#): This resource is a data analytics platform for medical transport programs to track, report, and evaluate their performance on transport-specific quality metrics.
- **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circulars and Literature:**
 - [EMS/Airplane Advisory Circular \(1990\)](#) and [Helicopter Air Ambulance Circular \(2015\)](#): These documents provide FAA standards for air ambulance operations, addressing both airplane and helicopter services.
 - [Crew Resource Management in Helicopter Air Ambulance Operations \(2017\)](#): This literature review highlights the rising trend of HAA accidents linked to CRM issues, underscoring the need for improved crew management practices.
- [Joint Position Statement on Air Medical Services Utilization \(2021\)](#): Authored by NAEMSP, ACEP, and AMPA, this statement offers guidelines on the appropriate use of air medical services, balancing clinical needs with flight safety considerations.
- [Department Of Transportation Guidelines for Helicopter Emergency Medical Transport \(2015\)](#): This document discusses the ADA issue and delineates the boundaries of state versus federal authority in HEMS operations.

Reference Materials

- [ACEP Position Statement on HEMS Utilization \(2018\)](#): ACEP advocates for the development of national guidelines for HEMS utilization, adaptable to local and regional contexts, and calls for a research-driven agenda to refine these guidelines.
 - [National Transportation Safety Board \(NTSB\) Part 135 Special Accident Investigation Report \(2024\)](#): This report analyzes over 500 air ambulance incidents, providing recommendations to enhance safety and operational practices.
 - **Billing and Financial Reports:**
 - [Ground Ambulance Patient Billing Federal Advisory Committee Report](#)
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- [Air Ambulance Patient Billing Report](#): These reports address the financial aspects of ambulance services, highlighting billing practices and patient cost considerations.
 - [ASPE Air Ambulance Report](#): This report offers insights into the economic and policy implications of air ambulance services.
- **Additional Resources:**
 - [FAA 2023 Helicopter Air Ambulance Report](#): This report further details on FAA regulations and guidelines relevant to air ambulance operations.

This collection of resources is essential for informing discussions on quality and patient safety in air ambulance services. The committee and general public are encouraged to review these materials ahead of the meeting to ensure a productive and informed discussion on enhancing the quality and safety of air ambulance services.