



EMS AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

The Vision

Emergency medical services (EMS) of the future will be community-based health management that is fully integrated with the overall health care system. It will have the ability to identify and modify illness and injury risks, provide acute illness and injury care and follow-up, and contribute to treatment of chronic conditions and community health monitoring. This new entity will be developed from redistribution of existing health care resources and will be integrated with other health care providers and public health and public safety agencies. It will improve community health and result in more appropriate use of acute health care resources. EMS will remain the public's emergency medical safety net.

During the past 30 years, emergency medical services in the United States have grown exponentially. Yet, initiatives to create a system to provide emergency medical care for the nation's population began with limited knowledge about what constituted the most efficient processes for delivering ideal resources to the spectrum of situations encountered by contemporary EMS providers.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau sponsored *The EMS Agenda for the Future*. This document focuses on aspects of EMS related to emergency care outside traditional health care facilities.

The **EMS Agenda** provides an opportunity to examine what has been learned during the past three decades and create a vision for the future. This opportunity comes at an important time, when those agencies, organizations, and individuals who affect EMS are evaluating their role in the context of a rapidly evolving health care system.

To realize this vision, the **EMS Agenda** proposes continued development of 14 EMS attributes, each of which is a chapter in the report.

1. Integration of health services
2. EMS research
3. Legislation and regulation
4. System finance
5. Human resources
6. Medical direction
7. Education systems
8. Public education
9. Prevention
10. Public access
11. Communication systems
12. Clinical care
13. Information systems
14. Evaluation

The **EMS Agenda** serves as a guide for EMS providers, health care organizations and institutions, government agencies, and policy makers. They must be committed to ensuring that EMS efficiently contributes to improving the health of their communities. They will need to invest the necessary resources to provide emergency health care that is reliably accessible, effective, subject to continuous evaluation, and integrated with the remainder of the health system.

Copies of the **EMS Agenda for the Future** can be obtained by writing to the Office of Enforcement and Emergency Services, NHTSA, NTS-42, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC, 20590 or send a fax to (202) 366-7721.

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