



# MIEMSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

August 2023

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## EMS NEWS DIGEST

**Governor Announces Nearly \$1 Million in State Highway Safety Grants** (*Office of the Governor*). On July 12, Governor Wes Moore announced the distribution of nearly \$1 million in state highway safety grants to 33 organizations and law enforcement agencies, including MIEMSS, for initiatives to promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety and local strategic highway safety plans. Funds will be dispersed by the Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office: Read more: <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-announces-nearly-1-million-in-maryland-highway-safety-grants.aspx>

**Frederick Celebrates Trooper 3's Golden Anniversary** (*The Frederick News-Post*). Frederick County celebrated Frederick-based Trooper 3's golden anniversary with an August 5 event at Frederick Municipal Airport. The event was just one of many taking place this year around the state as Maryland celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its state EMS system. Read more: [https://www.fredericknews.com/golden-anniversary-golden-hour-50-years-in-the-air-saving-lives-for-frederick-based-helicopter/article\\_c40db1a5-74bc-55f0-96a2-2e067b30edfe.html](https://www.fredericknews.com/golden-anniversary-golden-hour-50-years-in-the-air-saving-lives-for-frederick-based-helicopter/article_c40db1a5-74bc-55f0-96a2-2e067b30edfe.html)

**MDH Highlights Importance of Back-to-School Vaccines During National Immunization Awareness Month** (*Maryland Department of Health*). Following Governor Wes Moore's proclamation of August as Immunization Awareness Month in Maryland, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has launched a social media campaign urging parents and caregivers to make sure their children are up-to-date on their back-to-school vaccinations. "Our children deserve the best protection we can give them against preventable diseases, so we urge all parents to keep their children updated on their vaccinations, especially those required for school enrollment," said MDH Secretary Laura Herrera Scott. "We want to start the new school year with every child healthy, happy, and ready to learn." Read more: <https://health.maryland.gov/newsroom/Pages/MDH-highlights-the-importance-of-back-to-school-vaccines-during-National-Immunization-Awareness-Month.aspx>

**Practical Examples of Customer Service Principles in EMS** (*EMS1*). While the primary focus of EMS is to deliver timely and efficient medical care, the principles of customer service are equally significant. Exceptional customer service in EMS ensures not only the delivery of competent medical aid but also compassion, understanding and support during stressful situations. Read more: <https://www.ems1.com/leadership/articles/practical-examples-of-customer-service-principles-in-ems-82iz1oJAuSZGRePZ/>

Submit recent EMS-related news and headlines for consideration to [ptandy@miemss.org](mailto:ptandy@miemss.org).



## MARYLAND EMS CLINICIANS AND JURISDICTIONAL PROGRAMS

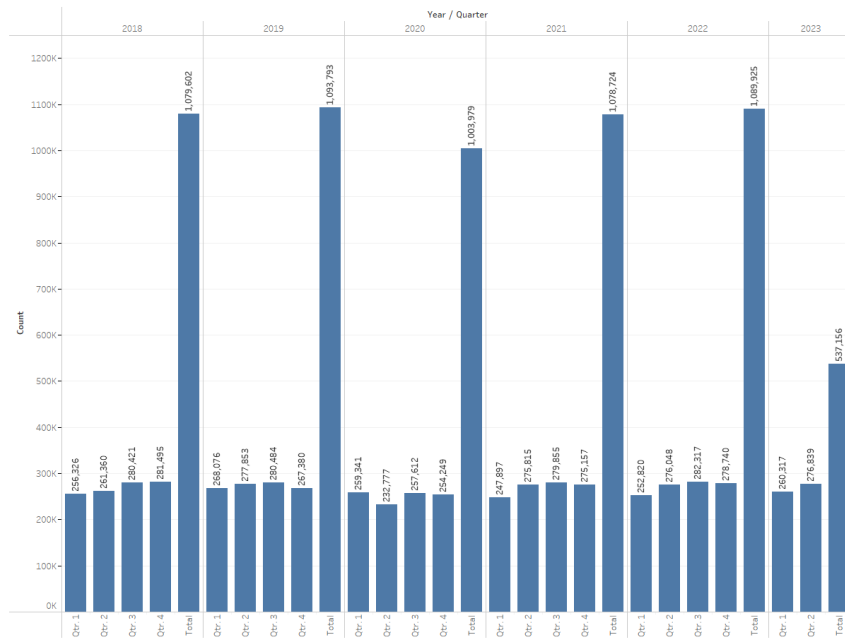
### 2023 Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services

The 2023 *Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services* took effect on July 1, 2023, and are available online at <https://miemss.org/home/ems-providers/protocols>. There are multiple evidence-

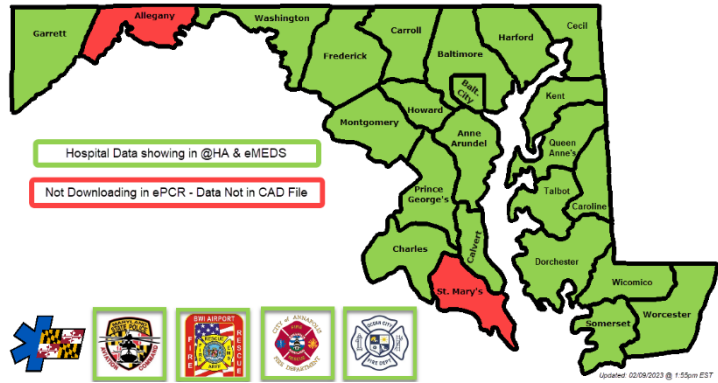
based updates to this year’s protocols, which are summarized in the “Welcome Letter” found on page iii of the book. Also, this year’s protocol video updates have been posted to the MIEMSS Online Training Center ([www.emsonlinetraining.org](http://www.emsonlinetraining.org)).

**Electronic Maryland EMS Data System (eMEDS®) Updates.**

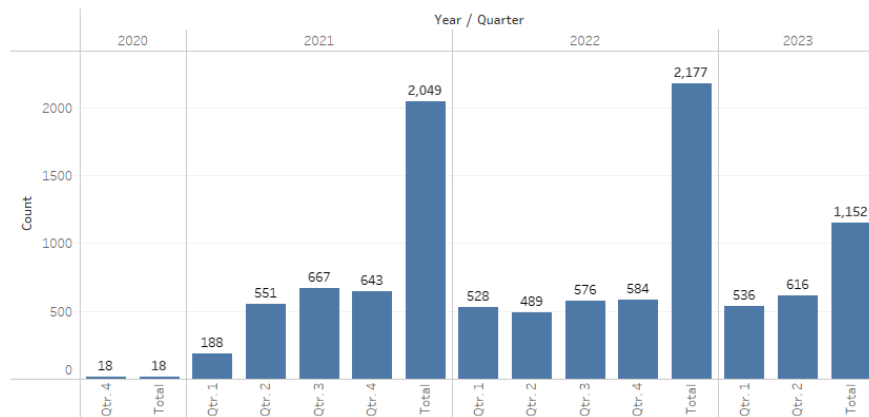
- **eMEDS® Updates:** Recent eMEDS® updates (EMS & Mobile Integrated Health (MIH)) including:
  - o EMS: Validation of Hospital Team Activation/Alert Grid: Better documentation for specialty calls when receiving facility is notified of incoming patient.
  - o EMS and MIH: Free-Text field below crew selection for documenting “Other Personnel” on a particular call.
  - o EMS: Necessary changes to the run form to accommodate 07/01/23 protocol updates.
  - o EMS: “Patient Experiencing Homelessness” and “Veteran Status” added for data collection.
  - o MIH: New program type of “Alternate Response”.
- **eMEDS® Report Count:** Number of reports, by quarter, since 2018 (2023 = YTD).



- **NEMESIS v3.5 and eMEDS® Release:** MIEMSS continues to work on various updates needed to bring our eMEDS® patient care reporting system in compliance with NEMESIS’ newest version of 3.5. Updates within the eMEDS® run form, validations, data elements, integrations, and training material will ensure a successful transition for all users.
- **Ambulance @ Hospital Dashboard (@HA):** MIEMSS continues to work with the remaining two (2) EMSOPs to submit their CAD data to ImageTrend® to populate the @HA Dashboard in near-real time. The final two (2) EMSOPs have an extended projection timeline. In addition to counties submitting their data to the @HA Dashboard, this also improves the “CAD Download” feature that EMS clinicians use to complete their eMEDS® reports in a timely fashion, with information coming directly from the county’s CAD/9-1-1 system.



- **Mobile Integrated Health (MIH):** Since October 2020, MIEMSS has been working with the Statewide EMS Advisory Council’s (SEMSAC) MIH subcommittee to implement ImageTrend®’s MIH module. EMSOPs have continued to utilize the MIH module within eMEDS® since Q4-2020. MIEMSS continues to work closely with the MIH subcommittee to review and continue to make improvements based on the subcommittee’s recommendations (2023 = YTD).



- **eMEDS® Support:** eMEDS® support continues to provide a timely response for tickets from EMS clinicians, hospital personnel, and other stakeholders throughout the state. Some common issues include password-resets and login issues, access questions, and report-writer functionality. Emailing the support desk is the preferred method of contact. Each new email received will generate a new ticket for MIEMSS staff to process; users will automatically receive a system-generated email with a unique ticket number upon receipt of the new ticket.
  - o Email: [emed-support@miemss.org](mailto:emed-support@miemss.org)
  - o Phone Number: (410) 706-3669
- **Quarterly ImageTrend® Releases:** MIEMSS and ImageTrend® continue to work to minimize the amount of downtime that occurs during quarterly updates to the eMEDS® site. Each update implements the latest version available from ImageTrend®. All necessary precautions are taken to avoid prolonged outages. However, due to their complexity, some scheduled updates may take up to six (6) hours to complete.

**eMEDS® / ESSENCE Integration.** In conjunction the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), MIEMSS has developed a near-real time data exchange between eMEDS® and MDH’s syndromic surveillance system. This linkage allows MDH to utilize EMS data for the early identification of intentional or natural emerging infectious disease outbreak(s). This effort enables an expedient public health threat and risk

assessment for situational awareness, and ensures prompt applications of public health interventions in the event of a public health emergency. Additionally, MIEMSS, in conjunction with MDH and the Johns Hopkins University Advanced Physics Laboratory, has developed an EMS data module within the State’s syndromic surveillance system. This new EMS module is available to other states for the purposes of integrating EMS data with ESSENCE.

**Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program.** MIEMSS continues to work with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) on the Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program, which will help rebalance reimbursement to EMS for the unreimbursed costs of providing services to Medicaid patients by calculating and obtaining the appropriate portion of federal reimbursement for these services. The program is open to EMS Board-designated Jurisdictional EMS Operational Programs (JEMSOPs) that 1) are funded directly by public (tax) dollars, 2) bill Medicaid for EMS transports, and 3) document expenses paid with public (tax receipt) funds.

A total of 19 JEMSOPs participated in the program in FY23, including: Allegany County; City of Annapolis; Anne Arundel County; Baltimore City; Baltimore County; Caroline County; Cecil County; Charles County; Dorchester County; Frederick County; Garrett County; Harford County; Howard County; Montgomery County; Town of Ocean City; Prince George’s County; Queen Anne’s County; City of Salisbury; and Talbot County.

More than 80 percent of all emergency service transports provided to Medicaid members by participating JEMSOPs are potentially eligible for a supplemental payment. This equates to 23 percent of all emergency transports. For the foreseeable future, ESPP will continue to provide annual federal reimbursement for EMS Medicaid costs. JEMSOPs that did not participate in the first few years of the program will have an opportunity to do so in the future.



## CARDIAC

**Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee.** The mission of the Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee (CASC) is to improve cardiac arrest survival in all communities in Maryland. CASC held its most recent meeting in August 2023, during which it focused on optimizing subcommittee membership to maximize the contribution of each out-of-hospital link in the chain of survival, thus increasing cardiac arrest survivors in each Maryland community. It also explored multiple ways to celebrate all bystander and public safety clinicians involved in each life saved. CASC’s next meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday in October. Attendance may be in-person or virtual.

The next Maryland Resuscitation Academy will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 24-25, 2023.



## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

**Emergency Medical Services for Children Department (EMS for Children).** PEMAC extended time to work on pediatric EMS protocol revisions for 2024 during its most recent business meeting, held July 5, 2023. The summer virtual forums for both Pediatric EMS and Pediatric ED RN Champions focused on Pediatric Readiness in both EMS and ED settings. On July 19, Pediatric EMS Champions met virtually to review the 2023 HRSA Federal EMS Assessment and begin discussion on pediatric recognition for EMS Agencies.

The EMSC Department coordinates four different grant programs:

***The EMSC State Partnership Grant*** (federally funded by HRSA/MCHB) focuses on Pediatric Readiness for both EMS agencies and Emergency Departments, including identifying a pediatric champion to provide both advocacy and facilitate communication to all members of the agency/hospital. The EMSC State Partnership Grant is funded for four years, effective 4/1/2023.

- *Hospital Pediatric Readiness:* Pediatric ED Nurses interested in moving pediatric readiness forward met with the new EMSC Grant hospital specialist, Mary Ellen Wilson, on 06/28/23 to identify educational topics for the next 18 months.
- *Prehospital Pediatric Readiness:* Pediatric EMS Champions met virtually on 07/19/23 to review the 2023 HRSA Federal EMS Assessment and begin discussion on pediatric recognition for EMS Agencies. They will hold their next in-person forum on 10/18/23 at MIEMSS Headquarters in Baltimore.
- FAN Council is continuing to work on the required strategic plan for family involvement in EMSC programming and revising the lecture portion of the Safe Sleep outreach project to include the new recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Pediatric Disaster pre-planning for both EMS and ED is the fourth goal and must focus specifically on including children, youth, and families.

***The Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection (CPS & OP) Healthcare Project*** (state-funded through the MHSO), now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of funding, continues to provide outreach to health care providers to as well as education and parent educational tools on child passenger safety. June and July education included webinars and in-person training focused on safe transport of children with special health care needs. Social media materials continue to inform families and caretakers. To learn more, email [cps@miemss.org](mailto:cps@miemss.org).

***The Bike Helmet Safety Project*** (state-funded through the MHSO) will start its seventh year of funding providing bike helmets and bike safety education through Safe Kids Coalitions and community partners, Trauma Centers, and Pediatric EMS Champions. The 2023-2024 Bike Safety Grant will focus on encouraging local communities (counties/city-based organizations) to apply for bike safety grants in FY25. The project actively seeks stories of children and adults “Saved by the Helmet” throughout the year. To request educational materials or learn more, email [bikesafety@miemss.org](mailto:bikesafety@miemss.org).

***The Safe Kids Maryland*** state coalition continues to provide prevention information through social media and articles in *Maryland EMS News*. Many Safe Kids coalitions and both of Maryland’s pediatric trauma centers participated in the 2023 International Safe Kids PREV CON, held July 23-26, 2023, at Gaylord Conference Center. The 2023 Safe Kids Maryland state coalition will meet in-person on September 6, 2023, at MIEMSS Headquarters in Baltimore. To subscribe to the event announcement email list, contact [safekidsmd@miemss.org](mailto:safekidsmd@miemss.org).

- **Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference: September 19, 2023.** Registration is open online and FREE!
- **Public Fire & Life Safety Educators Seminar: March 23, 2024** @ MFRI in College Park. More details to follow.



**PREVENTION**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has prepared materials for use by law enforcement and public safety personnel for the following upcoming public safety and prevention campaigns:

- **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over** (*August 16 – September 4, 2023*). Impaired driving is one of the deadliest, most often committed crimes, yet it is preventable. Download materials here: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over>
- **Child Passenger Safety Week** (*September 17 – 23, 2023*). Car crashes are the leading cause of death for children. Download materials here: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/child-safety/child-car-safety>
- **National Teen Driver Safety Week** (*October 15 – 21, 2023*). Parents should talk with their teens about the important rules they must follow to stay safe behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. Download materials here: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/teen-safety>
- **National School Bus Safety Week** (*October 16 – 20, 2023*). School buses are the safest way to transport children to and from school. However, teaching children to follow safety rules on the bus is just as important as informing drivers about the laws regarding school buses. Download materials here: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/school-bus-safety>
- **Halloween** (*October 31, 2023*). The only thing scarier than zombies and witches loose on the streets is an impaired driver. This Halloween, let’s make happy memories, not tragic nightmares. Download materials here: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/halloween>



**EMS CLINICIAN SERVICES**

**Instructor Corner:** If you are an instructor and would like access, please call us at (410) 706-3666. We have added a new folder for information sheets that will assist with creating a course, student exam registration, FAQ about initial EMT certification and more.

**Licensure-support@miemss.org** is the preferred method by which clinicians should contact our office with questions or concerns. All communications go into a KACE system, which is time-stamped. This helps our team to delegate your ticket to the appropriate department, enabling us to respond to you more efficiently.

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### September 2023

- **19: 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference.** Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, MD. (<https://www.midatlanticlifesafetyconference.com/>)