

MIEMSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 2022

Maryland EMS Clinicians and Jurisdictional Programs

Infectious Diseases

- **COVID-19.** As EMS continues to transport patients with COVID-19 illness as well as immunosuppressed patients, both patients and EMS clinicians should continue to wear surgical masks on all calls for service. For patients with respiratory symptoms, or suspected/proven COVID-19 illness, EMS clinicians should remember to use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including: gloves, gown, eye protection, and a fit-tested N-95 respirator. MIEMSS will continue to post COVID-19 EMS Guidance documents to the <https://www.miemss.org/home/infectious-diseases> website as updates occur.
- **Monkeypox.** Monkeypox is a viral illness that typically starts with flu-like symptoms and progresses to a rash, characterized by fluid-filled lesions that resemble chickenpox or herpes, within three days. The rash typically starts on the face and spreads to other parts of the body. Viral spread typically requires close contact with an infected person or animal (e.g., primates, small mammals), contaminated materials, or by respiratory droplets that can travel as far as six feet.
EMS clinicians should pay close attention to recommended personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes: gown, gloves, eye protection and NIOSH-approved N-95 (or equivalent) respirator. Read more here: <https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Memos/Memo-Monkeypox-What-You-Need-to-Know-20220526.pdf?ver=2022-05-26-120520-063>.

EMS Transfer of Care Times. MIEMSS continues to closely monitor times on the transfer of care from EMS to hospital staff, and sends weekly reports to 34 Maryland hospitals and freestanding emergency departments. All of the Region III hospitals and many in Region IV and V receive these reports. Several hospitals have used these data to re-evaluate triage processes and focus their attention on improving transfer of care times.

We encourage leaders to continue collaborative discussions with hospitals on strategies to transfer care from EMS to hospital staff in an efficient fashion. In addition, the Direct to Triage Protocol enables delivery of stable patients to the ED triage waiting area. Of note, it is important that the patient report be conveyed to nursing staff when using this protocol.

At Hospital Ambulances (@HA). MIEMSS developed and released a web-based application showing ambulance activity at the many hospitals utilized by Maryland's jurisdictional EMS clinicians. The application is known as the At Hospital Ambulances (@HA) dashboard. This application runs on iOS, Android, and Windows mobile devices as well as on desktop computers. The application displays the hospital name and number of ambulances at a hospital, as well as the minimum and maximum length of

stay of a unit or units at the hospital. The information may be sorted by Length of Stay, Alphabetically by Hospital, or by Unit Count. If there are no units at a hospital, then the hospital is not listed (unless there is an associated CHATS Alert). Not all of the jurisdictions are participating. A map, available on the dashboard, shows which jurisdictions are supplying data and those yet to come onboard. Access to the @HA dashboard is available to clinicians via a link on the eMEDS® patient care reporting system dashboard. It may also be viewed at <https://aha.miemss.org>. Jurisdictional EMS administrators have credentials to login to view additional details, including the ambulance's unit number and jurisdiction. At this time, 22 of the 24 counties are submitting the necessary data to support the dashboard. MIEMSS continues efforts to improve the utility of the application.

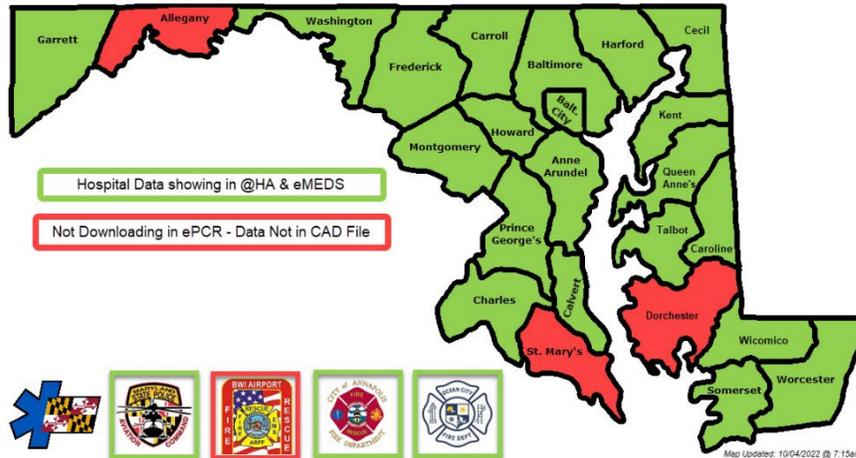
Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program. MIEMSS continues to work with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) on the Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program that will help rebalance reimbursement to EMS for the unreimbursed costs of providing services to Medicaid patients by calculating and obtaining the appropriate portion of federal reimbursement for these services. Eligible to participate in the program are EMS Board-designated Jurisdictional EMS Operational Programs that is funded directly by public (tax) dollars; bills Medicaid for EMS transports; and documents expenses paid with public (tax receipt) funds.

The thirteen JEMSOPs that participated in the program in FY22 will receive a total of for costs incurred during a nine-month period in FY22. The 13 JEMSOPs include: Allegany County; City of Annapolis; Anne Arundel County; Baltimore City; Baltimore County; Caroline County; Dorchester County; Frederick County; Harford County; Howard County; Montgomery County; Prince George's County; and Queen Anne's County.

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

Electronic Maryland EMS Data System (eMEDS®) Updates.

- ***Ambulance @ Hospital Dashboard (@HA):*** MIEMSS continues to work with various EMSOPs to submit their CAD data to ImageTrend® in order to populate the @HA Dashboard in near-real time. In addition to counties submitting their data to the @HA Dashboard, this also improves the "CAD Download" feature used by clinicians in the field to complete their eMEDS® report in a more timely and accurate manner, with information coming directly from the county's CAD/9-1-1 system. Most recently, Caroline County began to submit their CAD data for display on @HA.



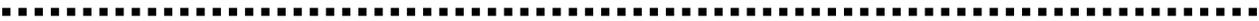
- **Mobile Integrated Health (MIH):** Since October 2020, MIEMSS has been working with the Statewide EMS Advisory Council’s (SEMSAC) MIH Workgroup to implement ImageTrend®’s MIH module. EMSOPs have continued to utilize the MIH module within eMEDS® since Quarter 1 of 2021. MIEMSS’ OMD/eMEDS® is working with the Office of Clinician Services to incorporate various MIH levels into the eLicensure application in order to allow enhanced syncing between these two applications.
- **eMEDS® Support:** eMEDS® support continues to receive tickets from EMS clinicians, hospital personnel, and other stakeholders throughout the state for issues like password resets and login issues, access questions, report writer functionality, and other various needs. 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: emeds-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 periodic updates to the eMEDS® site. Since Quarter 1 of 2020, it was decided to stop automatic, twice-per-month updates from being pushed and to move to a quarterly update schedule. When these updates occur, the site will be updated to the latest version available from ImageTrend®. We do not expect any prolonged outage during these updates as all necessary precautions are being taken to prevent this. However, some updates may take up to six (6) hours to complete due to the complexity during these times.

eMEDS®/CRISP Integration. MIEMSS continues to collaborate with the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), Maryland’s designated health information exchange (HIE). This ongoing relationship has yielded a number of recent fruitful projects:

- Transitioned MIEMSS and the Critical Care Coordination Center team to the new CRISP portal, allowing for increased care coordination.
- Enhanced COVID-19 data collection to include pediatric emergency department boarding patients.
- Expanding healthcare continuum of care’s access to pre-hospital EMS data to include electrocardiograms and other media.

- Established roadmap to achieve incorporation of Mobile Integrated Health data from eMEDS® into CRISP.

eMEDS® / ESSENCE Integration. In conjunction the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), MIEMSS has developed a near-real time data exchange between the State of Maryland’s EMS electronic patient care report (eMEDS®) and MDH’s syndromic surveillance system. This linkage allows EMS data to be utilized by MDH for the early identification of intentional or natural emerging infectious disease outbreak(s), providing for expedient public health threat and risk assessment for situational awareness, and ensuring prompt applications of public health interventions in the event of a public health emergency. Additionally, MIEMSS has partnered with MDH and the Johns Hopkins University Advanced Physics Laboratory to engage in the development of 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. These technical aspects of this program were recently completed.



EMS News Digest

Talbot EMS Introduces Ultrasound on County Ambulances (*The Star Democrat*). Talbot County Emergency Services, Emergency Medical Services Division, has a new tool in its toolbox – an ultrasound machine on each of the ambulances in its fleet. Talbot EMS approached the Talbot Paramedic Foundation about supporting this new and exciting pilot project for the state of Maryland, and they agreed. Talbot County paramedics started using the technology in the field in the summer of 2022. Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3SnRFEI>.

New Maryland Fire & EMS Department Ready to Begin Hiring Career Personnel (*Carroll County Times via JEMS*). Carroll County’s Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, which was officially established two years ago this month, is now ready to start hiring new career personnel, according to Director Michael Robinson Sr. “Over the past year, the [department] has made significant progress to create infrastructure, policies and procedures and is now poised to begin hiring personnel, incrementally, who will deploy to fire stations in the next several months,” Robinson said in a staff report he presented to the Board of Carroll County Commissioners on October 6. Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3TBLEFa>.

Marylanders 5 and Older Now Eligible for Bivalent COVID-19 Boosters So Maryland Families Can Stay COVIDReady (*Maryland Department of Health*). The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has announced that Marylanders 5 years old and older are now eligible to receive the updated COVID-19 bivalent booster shot, further expanding the state’s COVIDReady campaign to encourage Marylanders to maximize their protection against COVID-19 this fall and winter. “Marylanders 5 to 11 years old who have gotten their last COVID-19 primary vaccine or any recommended booster shot at least two months ago are now eligible for the updated COVID-19 bivalent booster shot,” said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. “We urge all Marylanders 5 years old and older to get the bivalent booster shot as soon as they can to be COVIDReady and together safely enjoy the colder months and upcoming holidays.” Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3Tx2t4f>.

Protecting EMS Responders from Violence (*US Fire Administration*). Violence is the second most frequent cause of nonfatal injuries to emergency medical services (EMS) clinicians, according to 2020 data from National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) data tracking. Most of these injuries are caused by the patients EMS clinicians are treating. An EMS department in Austin, Texas, is implementing a training program that focuses on changing how violent patients are approached, including how to detect a possibly violent patient early in the incident. Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3yPhdDp>.

Submit recent EMS-related news and headlines for consideration to ptandy@miemss.org.



EMS Preparedness and Operations

General Report:

Work continues within several active workgroups; these include:

- ***Crisis Scene Collaboration Workgroup***. This group was formed to identify best practices, training, and tools to assist Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement (LE) personnel to safely and effectively work together in assisting agitated individuals at incident scenes. This workgroup is made up of representatives from Fire/EMS departments, Medical Directors, LE, mental health clinicians, the Attorney General’s Office, and a civil rights expert. The workgroup has met several times and is currently collecting expert advice and information and completing a draft guidance document.

- ***Active Assailant Interagency Workgroup***. This workgroup continues efforts in support of Governor Hogan’s Executive Order “Active-Assailant Incident Preparation and Coordination,” issued in February 2019. The Maryland State Police and MIEMSS continue to co-chair the work group. Meetings have resumed virtually after a short pause caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Participants include representatives from hospitals, public/private education, federal, state, and local Fire, EMS, emergency management, LE, and other organizations. Several subcommittees continue to make progress towards completion of identified goals and objectives. Last year, the workgroup completed work on a new website, <https://aaiwg.maryland.gov>, where workgroup and related materials are located. The focus in the coming year will be on community outreach and recovery. Recovery efforts will focus on emergency people search and family support to assist those involved in or affected by active assailant events. A statewide symposium was held on October 14, 2022, in Annapolis.

- ***Responder Health and Wellness Workgroup***. In 2019, a workgroup was formed with the goal of improving the health and wellness of Maryland’s first responders. The group brings together critical incident stress management and peer support team members from Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, 9-1-1 centers, and commercial ambulance agencies. Licensed mental health

clinicians also support the workgroup. The vision of this group is to ensure that “*Every Maryland first responder has the health and wellness knowledge and support necessary to thrive.*” During the 2022 legislative session, a Peer Support Bill (SB 446) was passed and signed by the governor. The Bill provides confidentiality protection for peer support team activities as well as other provisions. The new law also requires the Behavioral Health Administration, in consultation with MIEMSS, to study and write a report on specified items related to peer support teams. The study is getting underway. BHA has tasked the University of Maryland, Baltimore Systems Evaluation Center with coordinating the work and preparing the draft report. A group of well-qualified wellness folks from the Fire and EMS community as well as MIEMSS staff has been assembled to assist and provide input.

Field Operations:

- Working with state, federal, and local partners on the Baltimore National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) plan update.
- Planning and evaluating a next-generation Maryland Emergency Medical Resource Alerting Database (MEMRAD) system for MIEMSS.
- In conjunction with the Regional Coordinators and SOCALR Director, continuing to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 Test Kits (PCR and Antigen) to Maryland Public Safety and Commercial EMS Agencies.
- In conjunction with our Data Manager, continuing to work on pre-hospital patient care report data (eMEDS®) integration and analysis with the Maryland Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) team. MIEMSS recently completed an opioid analysis project with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab.

EMRC/SYSCOM:

- Continuing to review SOPs and guidance documents to identify areas for revision and updating.
- Initiating orientation and training for new full time and contractual employees in November.
- All EMRC/SYSCOM staff have been enrolled and are currently participating in the CommLink virtual training, continuing education, and certification program for air and ground transport communications specialists. This is a CAMTS approved curriculum and covers all of the required topic material listed in the *CAMTS 11th Edition Standards*.

Programs:

- ***Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) Program.*** The Region IV office is responsible for managing the AED registration and renewal process as required by COMAR and the Annotated Code of Maryland. For the month of September 2022, they:
 - o processed 16 program renewal requests,
 - o renewed 194 AEDs located at sites throughout the state,
 - o processed eleven (11) new programs,
 - o approved the placement of 17 new AEDs at sites throughout the state, and

- continued to answer a multitude of questions from organizations participating in the program.
- **Critical Care Coordination Center (C4).** MIEMSS continues to utilize the C4 to help physicians identify available hospital critical care resources when patient transfers are necessary. Over 4,200 assists have been generated. C4 is staffed with two (2) critical care coordinators and a Central Intensivist Physician (CIP) 24/7. Any Maryland hospital with a patient needing a critical care transfer or treatment guidance can contact the C4 at 410-706-7797 and select Option #1 to be connected with the Adult ICU coordinator and physician team. The C4 coordinator has a near-real time view of statewide hospital critical care bed capacity. The CIP then works with referring physicians to identify patients' anticipated critical care needs. The C4 coordinator and CIP, working jointly with the sending and receiving facilities, match the patients with available critical care resources that can manage the patients' conditions. MIEMSS has expanded the C4 to also include Pediatrics, accessed by calling 410-706-7797 and selection Option #2, which connects the caller with the Pediatric coordinator and pediatric emergency care and critical care physician team. "C4-Pediatrics" provides an EMS Coordinator and Central Advisor Pediatric Physician available 24/7 by phone. C4-Pediatrics provides consultation and facilitates the transfer of patients requiring a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit or Pediatric Acute Care Unit utilizing the intensive care bed surveillance system at MIEMSS. Efforts are underway for a statewide tour to promote the CH this fall.
- **Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP).** The VAIP document has been completed and posted to the MIEMSS website in conjunction with the 2022 *Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services*; go to <https://miemss.org/home/vaip>.

Regional Highlights:

- **Regions I and II:**
 - Regional Coordinators continue to deploy rapid and PCR tests to public safety EMSOPs.
 - Regional Coordinators have been visiting hospital emergency departments to offer assistance during latest surge with several facilities under "crisis standards of care."
 - VAIP inspections being coordinated for Region I EMSOPs.
- **Region III:**
 - Facilitating distribution of DuoDotes to jurisdictions.
 - Facilitating quarterly Base Station Coordinators meeting for Region III.
 - Coordinating final review of NCR Regional Trauma Plan.
 - Finalizing 2023 meeting schedule for the Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee.
 - Managing ambulance inspections for Harford, Carroll and Howard Counties.
 - Supporting Region V base station site surveys.
 - Supporting the Critical Care Coordination Center (C4) in staffing shifts
- **Region IV:**
 - Continue working with several recipients of the 2021 Cardiac Device grant with their reimbursements.

- Assisting Region IV EMS Council with 2022 Cardiac Device Grant applications.
- Assisted with the 2022 Annual Base Station Coordinators' Summit.
- Working with various stakeholders in the First Responder Health and Wellness area on statewide projects.
- Supporting the Office of State EMS Medical Director with the Somerset County EMS SWOT Analysis. A group of stakeholders from Somerset County and neighboring jurisdictions are meeting every three weeks to develop recommendations to improve the EMS System in Somerset County.
- Currently facilitating Hospital Base Station re-designations for six (6) hospitals in Region IV.
- Wicomico County EMSOP is scheduled for conversion to ELITE single service configuration on November 1, 2022
- Continuing to support Winterfest 2022 by sending Nursing ConEd Certificates to students completing course requirements.
- Supporting Winterfest 2023 Planning Committee
- Supporting Queen Anne's County Emergency Services with planning efforts related to the Bay Bridge Run scheduled for November 13, 2022.

- **Region V:**

- Continue both virtual and on-site Base Station visits as part of the COMAR requirement for re-designation.
- Continue to work with regional EMSOP's in support of ongoing financial awards.
- Continue to work with the MWCOG to support inter-agency development and coordination.
- Continue to work with MIEMSS leadership and CRISP in support of the Emergency Department Advisory System (EDAS).
- Continue to collect, collate and validate the daily hospital COVID census, capacity, and bed availability data and reporting to state partners coordinating the ongoing COVID response.
- Coordinate with the Communications Division and Region V hospitals to support the Hospital Communication Upgrade Project and assist partner hospitals in orienting on their new equipment
- Work with EMS agencies to support the VAIP inspection process.



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. In the past year, the CASC has been evaluating two new educational and implementation strategies that utilize feedback of high-fidelity simulation data on CPR performance to EMS clinicians and on telephone CPR data to 9-1-1 Specialists. Results of these trials are positive and have been presented to the 9-1-1 Board and to SEMSAC. Plans are underway to share the results of these pilot programs and identify a few early-adopter communities that may be interested in trying new educational and quality improvement strategies to improve

survival in their communities. The next CASC meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. With administrative support, the meeting and minutes will be generated to represent the discussions had at the meeting.



Emergency Medical Services for Children

Emergency Medical Services for Children Department (EMS for Children). PEMAC meets on November 2, 2022, both in person and virtually. PEMAC members will continue working on the Pediatric Cardiac Arrest EMS protocol revisions for July 2023, as well as revisions for other protocols, and engage in detailed discussion on the four new HRSA EMSC State Partnership grant goals and the newly awarded EMSC Rural Pediatric Readiness Grant that focus on Pediatric Readiness in both Hospitals and EMS, along with expanding the Family Advisory Network. The Safe Kids Maryland state coalition met in September, and local coalitions are developing abstract for the 2023 PrevCon. The 16th Maryland EMSC Annual Research Forum will be held on the afternoon of November 2, following PEMAC.

The EMSC Department coordinates four (4) 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 (or a plurality) to provide both advocacy and facilitate communication to all members of the agency/hospital. Educational programs are being designed to include both skills and scenarios, many written by these champions.

- October 19 was the fall Pediatric EMS Champion in-person meeting, followed by a PEPP 4th Ed. Hybrid course open to EMS.
- Pediatric Readiness orientations for Hospital Champions were held in September and October, with quarterly meetings planned.
- Twenty (20) Safe Sleep Displays have been distributed to Safe Kids, EMS Champions, Hospital, and ENA partners.
- A winter project will develop a medication safety display package in partnership with the Maryland Poison Center and Safe Kids coalitions.
- Conference planning for 2023 regional and state EMS and ENA has started with pediatric tracks.

The Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection (CPS & OP) Healthcare Project (state-funded through the MHSO) received a 23rd year of funding starting October 1, 2022, which will continue to provide outreach to health care providers to provide education and parent educational tools on child passenger safety. The pilot Car Seat Project for EMS Supervisor vehicles is again funded in 2022-2023. All webinars are archived on the MIEMSS YouTube channel. Social media material will continue to inform families and caretakers. Contact the project at cps@miemss.org.

The Bike Helmet Safety Project (state-funded through the MHSO) is in a sixth year of providing bike helmets and bike safety education through Safe Kids coalitions and community partners, Trauma

Centers, and Pediatric EMS Champions. The project is seeking stories of children and adults “Saved by the Helmet” throughout the year. Contact bikesafety@miemss.org for more information or to request educational materials.

The Safe Kids Maryland state coalition continues to provide prevention information through social media and articles in *Maryland EMS News*. The state and local coalition are exploring the logistics of hosting a training for health care professionals and health educators on poison prevention education and medication safety for all ages. In-person meetings in 2023 will be held after PEMAC in March and September, at MIEMSS HQ. Contact safekidsmd@miemss.org to join the email event announcements.

Dates to Save:

- **Winterfest 2023: February 3-5, 2023, in Easton, Maryland.** Save the date is on Facebook and full agenda to follow in October.
- **Miltenberger 2023: March 8-11, 2023, at Rocky Gap Conference Center.** Details will be forthcoming. EMSC is hosting a CPEN Course on March 8 and March 9 for nurses, and a PEPP-4 Hybrid course on Friday, March 10. Online registration will be available later in the fall.
- **EMS Care 2023** will be April 26 – 30, 2023 in Ocean City. Call for speakers was distributed 11/1/22.
- **Public Fire & Life Safety Educators Seminar: March 25, 2023, at MFRI headquarters in College Park.** Save-the-date flyer is posted and full conference schedule will be available in the fall.



Prevention

Public Safety Campaign: Thanksgiving Weekend (November 23-27, 2022). This Thanksgiving Weekend, millions will hit our nation's roads, eager to spend time with family and friends. It's one of the busiest travel times of the year, and unfortunately more people on the roadways means the potential for more vehicle crashes. In the interest of public safety, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has prepared campaign materials for use by law enforcement and public safety personnel focusing on subjects such as seat belt use, safe driving habits, and impaired driving. Download them here: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/others/thanksgiving-weekend>.

2022 Holiday Season Impaired Driving Enforcement Mobilization (December 14, 2022 – January 1, 2023). This holiday season is just around the corner. As we prepare for festivities with family and friends, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration wants to remind all drivers of the dangers of impaired driving with campaign materials that you can use to promote safe driving habits. Visit <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drug-impaired-driving/holiday-season/drive-high-get-dui> for more information.



2022 Educational Programs

2022 ALS State Content Courses and the ALS Protocol Orientation Course: Live on the Online Training Center. <https://www.emsonlinetraining.org/>

EMT Stipend Program. MIEMSS has processed all 500 applicants for the stipend. Direct deposit is now available to receive payments quicker. Please check your email for instructions on how to apply for direct deposit. Email abrethauer@miemss.org if you have questions.

Save the Date: Critical Issues in Trauma 2022. Saturday, November 12, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Suburban Hospital Auditorium. Four hours of trauma-related continuing education.

Winterfest EMS Conference. Friday, February 3-5, 2023 in Easton, MD

Miltenberger EMS Seminar. Wednesday, February 8-11, 2023 at Rocky Gap Casino

EMS Care 2023. Wednesday, April 26-30, 2023 at the Clarion Ocean City.



EMS Clinician Services

Licensure-support@miemss.org is the communication method that we prefer clinicians use to contact our office with questions and concerns. All communications go into a KACE system that is time-stamped. This helps the team categorize the ticket to the right department and helps us respond to you in a more efficient manner.