

Office of EMS Trauma Systems
Texas Department of State Health Services
dshs.texas.gov/dshs-ems-trauma-systems

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CARE vs. Treatment

GETAC EMS Education Committee Chair Macara Trusty, discusses putting CARE back into healthcare.

From this Side

EMS/Trauma Systems leadership team and staff share their experiences and perspectives to spark conversation on issues important to the EMS and trauma system in Texas.

Updates

The Office of EMS/Trauma Systems provides the latest regulatory changes, important programmatic data, and relevant funding information to keep you informed.

News and Links

Access current news, initiatives, and publications from national EMS and public health organizations, as well as links to GETAC, rules, and enforcement actions.

Texas EMS Trauma Award Winners Announced

The 2024 Awards were given out in November at the Texas EMS Conference.

Protecting Our Future: Pediatric Safety Initiatives in the Lone Star State

A look at programs highlighting child safety and patient care.

GETAC Council and Committee Updates

The GETAC Council welcomes new members and announces committee selections.

FROM THIS SIDE

Insight • Inspiration • Ideas



As we begin 2025, the EMS Trauma Systems Section would like to express our gratitude to the many stakeholders and organizations that participated in the trauma rule amendment process. This includes the Governor’s EMS Trauma Advisory Committee (GETAC) workgroup, which helped review public comments and included members of GETAC, the GETAC trauma system committee, RAC leaders, as well as representatives from the Texas Medical Association, Texas Hospital Association, and The Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals.

The department continues the implementation of the Chapter 157 rules adopted on November 24, 2024.

Overview

Implemented on December 1, 2024.	
157.2	Definitions
157.123	Regional Advisory Councils
157.128	Denial, Revocation, and Suspension of Trauma Facility Designation
157.130	Funding
Implemented on January 1, 2025.	
157.125	Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation. Effective through August 31, 2025
Effective on September 1, 2025.	
157.126	Section 157.126 aligns the Texas designation requirements for Level I-IV facilities managing 101+ patients with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification standards. All verification and designation surveys that occur on and after September 1, 2025, will be evaluated on the requirements in this section.



Coming in February

The designation team will conduct conference calls to review Section 157.126 resource tools and answer stakeholder questions.

We are currently creating tools and resources to help facilities complete a gap analysis of their current practices and needed changes.

Available resources

Elizabeth Stevenson, Designation Manager, created resource documents to help facilities, trauma program managers, and trauma medical directors understand the new designation requirements in Section 157.125. The *Adopted Trauma Rule Comparison* documents for Level III & IV facilities are available on our [website](#).

View additional program updates on [page 11](#).



Jorie Klien
Director, EMS Trauma
Systems Section

2024 DSHS Emergency Medical Services Award Winners

DSHS News Release

The Texas Department of State Health Services celebrated excellence Tuesday by handing out awards to individuals, teams and facilities in the emergency medical services profession that demonstrated exemplary service to their local communities and the profession in 2024. The awards luncheon was part of the annual Texas EMS Conference, this year held in Fort Worth.

“Those recognized at this year’s awards ceremony have made significant impacts on our EMS operations,” said Dr. Timothy Stevenson, DSHS Deputy Commissioner for Consumer Protection. “These award winners exemplify true professionalism and excellence, which so many of our EMS professionals demonstrate every day. Texas is fortunate they are safeguarding our state and communities within our EMS/Trauma System.”

Winners recognized during the awards ceremony at the conference were:

EMS Community Recognition Award

Jimmy Lanning, LP
Stratford

EMS Education Program/Educator of the Year

Samantha Grimsley, LP
Weatherford

Dispatcher Excellence Award

Jerome Wymore
Lockhart

Interfacility Collaboration Award

Memorial Hermann – Texas Medical Center
Houston

Rural Healthcare Award

Val Verde Regional Medical Center EMS
Del Rio

Designated Facilities of the Year

UT Tyler Healthcare System
Tyler

Childress Regional Medical Center

Childress

EMS Leader of the Year

Stephen Harper, MD
San Antonio



EMS Professional of the Year

Eduardo Rodriguez, EMT-P
Dallas

EMS Response of the Year

Waller County EMS
Hempstead

Memorial Hermann Life Flight
Houston

GETAC Journey of Excellence

Chief W. Nim Kidd, EMT
Austin

Eric Epley, EMT-P
San Antonio

GETAC Lifetime Achievement Award

Donald Jenkins, MD
San Antonio

Hall of Honor (Line of Duty Deaths)

Shon Mathews, EMT-P
November 2, 2020
Texarkana

Zane Schaeffer, EMT-P
March 24, 2024
Ben Wheeler



CARE vs. Treatment

By Macara Trusty, LP, GETAC EMS Education Committee Chair

"Our patients are human beings worthy of dignity and compassion."

Today, I want to discuss a crucial aspect of prehospital care that sometimes gets overshadowed by our profession's fast pace: putting **CARE** back into healthcare.

As EMS professionals, we're educated to handle emergencies, deliver critical interventions, and provide life-saving treatments. However, not every patient we encounter needs an advanced procedure or medical intervention. What they do need, every time, is care. Care is more than medicine. It's compassion, empathy, and respect for the person in front of us. Whether a patient has a life-threatening condition or is simply experiencing distress, our presence and how we engage with them can make all the difference.

Sometimes, a hand on the shoulder, a calm voice, a blanket, or the reassurance that they're not alone is the most valuable "treatment" we can offer. When we prioritize care, we remind our patients that they are more than a diagnosis or a set of symptoms. Putting care back into prehospital healthcare means seeing beyond the injury or illness and focusing on the whole person. It means showing up with empathy and understanding, not just with equipment and skills. Because while our patients may not always need treatment, they will always need care.

Let's recommit to putting care at the heart of what we do.

A Friendly Reminder About EMS ID Badges

Professionalism is essential in all we do. It shapes how we present ourselves, interact with others, and provide care. Remember to wear your identification badges when interacting with the public and treating patients. Looking professional is a requirement of the Texas Administrative Code.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your [regional DSHS staff](#).

TAC 157.11 (n)

*Responsibilities of EMS Provider (6) assuring that all personnel, when on an in-service vehicle or when on the scene of an emergency, are **prominently identified by, at least, the last name and the first initial of the first name, the certification or license level and the EMS provider's name.** A provider may utilize an alternative identification system in incident specific situations that pose a potential for danger if the individuals are identified by name.*



Protecting Our Future: Pediatric Safety Initiatives in the Lone Star State

Child Maltreatment Regional Project

By Elizabeth Hicks, Chair, CENTEX RAC

In response to a concerning increase in child fatalities linked to non-accidental trauma, the Central Texas Regional Advisory Council (CENTEX RAC) initiated a task force to address this concern. Key members of the task force, including paramedics Byron Sedleck and Elizabeth Hicks, collaborated to produce valuable resources aimed at helping healthcare providers recognize signs of child maltreatment. These resources are specifically designed for healthcare professionals, highlighting critical indicators of potential abuse or neglect to facilitate early detection.

Understanding the urgency of early intervention, Hicks and Sedleck worked to design a prehospital version tailored for [paramedics and first responders](#). This accessible tool equips them with essential knowledge to identify signs of child maltreatment while in the field. The resource features a list of history red flags, as well as physical exam and evaluation indicators. These indicators include unexplained injuries, inconsistent explanations regarding injuries, and neglect signs, such as malnutrition or poor personal hygiene.

In addition to identifying potential cases of abuse, the resource emphasizes the importance of thorough documentation, prompt reporting, and clear communication with receiving hospitals and child protective services. By fostering collaboration between prehospital providers and hospital staff, this initiative aims to build a stronger community response to child maltreatment.

View [CENTEX EMS Child Maltreatment Resources](#).

W.H.A.L.E. Car Seat Program

The W.H.A.L.E. (We Have A Little Emergency) car seat program is a safety initiative designed to help first responders quickly identify and assist children involved in car accidents. The program recognizes the importance of providing crucial information about young passengers who might be too young to communicate in emergencies.

The [W.H.A.L.E. kit](#) includes a set of stickers and labels that are placed on a child's car seat and the car windows. The car seat label contains vital details such as the child's name, medical conditions, and emergency contacts. In a collision, first responders can immediately access these details, ensuring appropriate care for the child passenger if the driver is seriously injured.

This simple yet effective program reinforces the importance of child safety while offering peace of mind to parents and caregivers. For more information or to order a kit, please visit the Texas Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) [website](#).



The Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice Invites Public Comments on Proposed Rules for EMS Compact

The [EMS Compact](#) is a state law that functions as both a contractual agreement between states and state law. The Compact facilitates the day-to-day movement of EMS personnel across state boundaries in the performance of their duties. It increases access to patient care, protects the public, and reduces administrative burden for EMS personnel and states.

All comments on the proposed rules must be received by 3:00 PM ET on February 14, 2025.

[Submit Comments](#)

Key highlights of the proposed rules include:

- Clarifications for **EMS License Endorsements**: Expanding recognition of advanced educational programs and specialized certifications.
- **Enhanced Guidance on the National EMS Coordinated Database**: Addressing data types, ownership, integration, and additional data protection measures.
- **Introduction of a Code of Conduct**: Establishing professional standards and ethical expectations for EMS clinicians operating under the EMS Compact in all 24 member states.

Public comments on the topic can be viewed [here](#). A public virtual meeting to discuss the proposed rules will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 3:00 PM ET. For more information on the Commission and the EMS Compact, visit www.emscompact.gov or contact the Commission at info@emscompact.gov.

2025 EMS Registry Updates

[Texas EMS and Trauma Registries](#) (EMSTR) extend our thanks to you for a record number of EMS data submissions during calendar years (CY) 2023 and 2024. For CY2025, we will continue collecting records in the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) 3.5.0 format. We have no plans to implement the NEMSIS 3.5.1 or 3.5.2 minor revisions. Our staff will begin to prepare for the NEMSIS 3.6.0 major revision in 2026.

Beginning February 1, 2025, EMSTR will go through an annual network security audit. If you receive an email from our program, please promptly confirm the access privileges/rights for the staff currently assigned to your EMS agency account. We sincerely appreciate your attention to this! For any questions, please contact our team at injury.web@dshs.texas.gov.

Receive Injury Prevention Unit Updates



OR Visit dshs.texas.gov/injury-prevention and click the "Sign up for Updates" button

Stay Updated

Stay updated on Injury Preventi

[Sign up for Updates](#)



Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council Welcomes New Members

GETAC comprises 19 members appointed by the Governor. Each represents a specific area related to trauma and EMS as defined in [Texas Health and Safety Code §773.012](#).

GETAC begins the new year with a fully seated council and welcomes three new members.

Mr. Donald “Donny” Booth is the CEO of Permian Regional Medical Center and is the Rural Trauma Facility representative on GETAC. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Emergency Nurses Association, American Organization of Nurse Executives, Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership, Texas Nurses Association, and the Andrews Downtown Lions Club.

Chief Brian Petrilla is the Certified Paramedic representative on GETAC and currently serves as the assistant chief of EMS for Fort Bend County, overseeing the critical operations and management of emergency services. Mr. Petrilla spent 25 years with the City of Houston Fire Department as a firefighter/paramedic and aircraft rescue firefighter.

Mr. Rodney Tidwell is the EMS Volunteer representative on GETAC. He currently serves as a field paramedic for University Medical Center EMS in Lubbock and is the EMS Administrator for the Post-Garza County EMS. Mr. Tidwell is a former city council member for the City of Post and a former firefighter with the Post Volunteer Fire Department.

Reappointments

Governor Abbott reappointed Dr. Sharon Malone, Dr. Taylor Ratcliff, Mr. Shawn Salter, and Dr. Alan Tyroch to the Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC).

Alan Tyroch, MD, is the Trauma Surgeon representative on the council and will continue as chairperson of GETAC. Dr. Tyroch is the Chair of Surgery at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso and the Chief of Surgery and Trauma Medical Director at the University Medical Center of El Paso.

Sharon Malone, MD, is the EMS Medical Director representative on the council and serves as the medical director of EMS services in Grayson, Lamar, Dallas, and Tarrant counties. In addition, she is the EMS Education Medical Director for Collin College EMS Education and Paris Junior College EMS Education Programs.

Taylor Ratcliff, MD, serves as the EMS Educator representative on the council. Dr. Ratcliff is the Central Texas Division Director of Pre-Hospital Medicine and Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at Baylor Scott & White Medical

Center in Temple. He is also the Temple College EMS Health Professions program associate medical director.

Shawn Salter serves as the EMS Air Medical Service representative on the council. Mr. Salter is the Chief Administrative Officer for CHRISTUS EMS and CHRISTUS Flight For Life. He is a Registered Nurse, a Licensed Paramedic, and a Certified Medical Transport Executive.

Public Meeting Dates

GETAC Strategic Planning Retreat
January 30-31, 2025

Q1 Meetings	March 5-7, 2025
Q2 Meetings	June 4-6, 2025
Q3 Meetings	August 20-22, 2025
Q4 Meetings	November 22-24, 2025

GETAC Strategic Plan

[Strategic Plan for The Texas Emergency Healthcare System](#) (March 2024)

[Learn More About the Council and Activities](#)



Committee Selections

We welcome the newest committee members and express appreciation to the outgoing members for their commitment of time and service to fulfill our vision of a unified, comprehensive, and effective Emergency Healthcare System.

Air Medical and Specialty Care Transport	Reappointed: Cherish Brodbeck, Glenn "Trey" Howard, Brandon Joines, Lynn Lail (Chair) Newly Appointed: Nicholas Anton, Michael Lawyer, Rolando Longoria, William Solomon Outgoing: Thaddeus Walz
Cardiac Care	Reappointed: Stephen Berry, Kyle Jacobson, Jennifer Milum, Alexa Timbrook, David Wampler, Neil White Newly Appointed: Suzanne Mewis, Verence Ramirez, Dr. Alan Taylor, Jason Waller Outgoing: None
Disaster Preparedness and Response	Reappointed: Brad Cecil, Jacob Johnson Newly Appointed: Kati Alley, Brent Fox, Jason Miller, Patrick Murphy Outgoing: Dr. Angela Cornelius, Keith Noble, Erik Richenberger, Marcus Smith
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	Reappointed: Michael Furrh, Michael Hayes, Brant Stovall Newly Appointed: Jason Dyess, Daniel Johnson, Dudley Wait Outgoing: James Jones, Teresa Gardner, Brian Petrilla
EMS Education	Reappointed: Terri King, Wilfred Langfeldt, Farris Nation, Melissa Stuve, Macara Trusty (Chair) Newly Appointed: William Houston, Lynne Singleton Outgoing: Jacob Braddock, Dustin Conger
EMS Medical Directors	Reappointed: Dr. Stephen Harper, Dr. Carlos Palacio Newly Appointed: Dr. Casey Patrick Outgoing: Dr. Keegan Bradley, Dr. David Persse
Injury Prevention and Public Education	Reappointed: Sarah Abbott, Cary Cain, Cassandra Clark, Bryan Dulock, Krista Easley, Courtney Edwards, Catherine Glenn, Jennifer Poteat, Timothy Spice Newly Appointed: Kristen Beckworth, Cassandra Bravo, Suzanne Curran, Bianca Hayes Outgoing: Kati Alley, Christine Reeves, Veronica Silva
Pediatrics	Reappointed: Dr. Jendi Haug, Tabitha Selvester, Sally Snow Newly Appointed: Naomi Bastardo, Dr. Leanne Fagan, David Firenza, Amy Tucker Outgoing: Dr. Barbara Gaines, Charles Jaquith
Stroke	Reappointed: Tory Cairns, Candace McAlpine Newly Appointed: Melanie Aluotto, Jennifer Burwell, Dr. Amanda Jagolino-Cole, Chantel Molina, Michelle Steiner, Amanda Webb Outgoing: Ashley Garza, Dr. Johanna Morton
Trauma Systems	Reappointed: KaLinda Evans, Wesley Milum, Dr. Howard Pryor, Kathy Rodgers, Zachary Ward Newly Appointed: Heather Sieracki Outgoing: Lori Adams



EMS Application Processing

The EMS office receives daily phone calls and emails asking about application processing times. Application processing can take up to 30 days. It may take longer during certain times of the year such as holidays. Most applications are approved, or a deficiency notice is sent within 10 days of submission. If you have not received your license or a deficiency notice within 30 days, you should contact our office.

Here's how to get licensed as quickly as possible:

The licensing team is committed to helping you get your certification as fast as possible.

- Complete the process online by applying once you have your NREMT certification and on the same day as your fingerprint background check appointment.
- Always list **@dshs.texas.gov** and **@partner.hhs.texas.gov** in your safe sender list.
- Please use a laptop or desktop computer when applying.
- When submitting a payment, allow the system time to process your transaction before you leave or close the page.

Things to keep in mind:

- The online licensing system will accept your application once the payment is complete, or you identify yourself as a volunteer, veteran, military member, or spouse.
- Failure to respond to a deficiency notice causes delays for most applicants. **Remember, check your spam/junk folders.**
- Applicants with a criminal background may now use the online system to request a prescreen evaluation before enrolling in an EMS course.
- EMS license certificates and wallet cards are available in the secure mailbox within your online account three days after approval.

Here's how to ensure your renewal is smooth:

Your renewal application will open six months before your license expires. The department does not send renewal notices, so please keep track of your expiration date. When applying, review your renewal options closely and ensure you have met the requirements before completing the process (view [Texas Administrative Code 157.38](#)). In most cases, the system will renew your license automatically. If you select volunteer, please upload a new verification with your application. If you have not received your certification or a deficiency notice within 30 days, you should contact our office.

Things to keep in mind:

- Incorrect account information is the biggest problem when renewing; keep your account information current.
- If you use an employer's email address, remember to update your account if you change employers.
- Please do not wait until the end of the month or days before your license expires to log into your account.

Need to contact us?

Email us at emscert@dshs.texas.gov.
Call us at (512) 834-6700 and follow the prompts.

Texas Medical Board Adopts New Rules for Chapter 169

New rules have been adopted by the Texas Medical Board and went into effect January 9, 2025, for [Chapter 169 of the Texas Administrative Code](#), regarding EMS medical directors. The rules focus on delegation of patient care and physician oversight and replaces Chapter 197.

Key Highlights:

- **§169.10**, Definitions, explains the resources for definitions of words and terms used in Subchapter C of new Chapter 169, as applied to physician supervision of emergency medical service (EMS) personnel.
- **§169.11**, Medical Supervision, explains the statutory authority physicians providing medical control and medical supervision of EMS providers must adhere to.
- **§169.12**, Medical Director Qualifications, explains the requirements for a physician to be a medical director of EMS services.
- **§169.13**, Medical Director Responsibilities, explains the responsibilities of a physician acting as medical director of EMS services.
- **§169.14**, Limits on Off-Line Medical Control, explains the limit on the number of EMS providers an offline medical director may supervise.
- **§169.15**, Other Physician Presence at Medical Emergency, explains how care should be provided by another physician, other than an EMS medical director, at the scene of an emergency.

These changes do not affect the authority given under [Health and Safety Code 773](#) and the [Texas Administrative Code Chapter 157](#).

Texas Pediatric Readiness Education Series for Prehospital Providers



The Texas Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project is a collaborative effort endorsed by the Governor's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) continues in 2025. These 1-hour virtual sessions are designed to enhance the essential knowledge and skills needed to deliver optimal care for children during emergencies, ultimately reducing morbidity and mortality rates.

Register now for the latest session with new topics coming soon.

Session 1: Pediatric Seizure Management

Date: March 12, 2025

Time: 9 AM

View more details and registration information on the [GETAC webpage](#).

Updates

Regulations • Programs • Funding



LEGISLATIVE

89 Session Update

The legislators were able to pre-file bills since mid-November, and as of this date, the EMS Trauma System Section has reviewed 23 bills that could have an impact on our EMS and trauma system. The Texas Ambulance Association and the Texas EMS Alliance is also reviewing bills to educate legislators.

If you have any questions on legislation, you can contact the following organizations:

- [Texas EMS Alliance](#)
- [Texas Ambulance Association](#)
- [Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation](#)

Chapter 157.11 Amendments

The approved amendments include requirements concerning the transport of dialysis patients during a declared disaster, a correction to insurance liability limits, and clarification on EMS triage responsibilities. The effective date of these amendments is March 06, 2025.

Transporting Dialysis Patients during Disaster

Emergency medical services (EMS) providers must have a plan for transporting dialysis patients directly to an outpatient end-stage renal disease facility during a declared disaster if the patient's normal and alternative modes of transportation cannot be used. The amendment also permits the EMS provider's plan to prioritize transporting a patient suffering from an acute emergency condition over transporting a dialysis patient.

Insurance Liability Limits

A unit of local government under this chapter is limited to money damages at a maximum amount of \$100,000 for each person, \$300,000 for each single occurrence of bodily injury or death, and \$100,000 for each single occurrence for damage to or destruction of property as described in [Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code §101.023\(d\)](#).

EMS Triage

The amendment clarifies that an EMS provider must participate in the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) triage plan or carry 25 triage tags on each ambulance, aligning with current practice throughout Texas and the nation.

Additional Changes

There is a change to the rules regarding a reference to the [Texas Health and Safety Code §773.05711](#) requirements for a letter of credit when renewing or obtaining an EMS provider's license. This will take effect on March 10, 2025.

Updates

Regulations • Programs • Funding



Regional Advisory Council Funding

Stakeholders have requested a step-by-step overview of the RAC funding allotment calculations and the RAC EMS pass-through funding. This process begins with the EMS providers and the designated trauma facilities submitting data to the State Registries to ensure the defined year's data is entered before the year's closing date.

An example of the year-end closeout is the EMS emergency transports January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024; submissions to the state registry will close at the end of April 2025. This year-end closeout is the same for EMS providers and trauma facility submissions.

If you have questions regarding the close-out date, please contact the [State Registries](#).



View Infographic

The RAC Allocation Process Infographic is an easy to follow guide to the funding process.

You'll find details on:

- Data Closeout
- Data Validation
- RAC Participation
- Pre-calculation Elements
- Calculation Elements
- EMS Pass-Through Funding
- EMS Pass-Through Eligibility
- Redistribution for Ineligibility

FUNDING

Trauma Uncompensated Care Funding

The 2025 trauma uncompensated care application is [available](#). All completed applications (Part A, B, and C) must be submitted to the department by **April 20, 2025**, for consideration of funding. The department will hold conference calls in early February to answer questions regarding the completion of the application.

Stakeholders have requested a step-by-step overview of the funding calculations for the trauma uncompensated care application. This is in development and will be shared once completed.

Updates

Regulations • Programs • Funding



Texas Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (TexasAIM)

In 2024, the Texas Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (TexasAIM) and Maternal Designation collaborated to provide maternal surveyors with training for Texas AIM bundle implementation. Maternal surveyors were also invited to attend the TexasAIM Summit held in December.

Facility Calls

Virtual meetings are held monthly for all designated facilities to provide support to program leadership and encourage statewide collaboration and problem solving for the improvement of trauma, stroke, maternal, and neonatal care throughout the state.

Visit the designation program pages on our [website](#) to register for 2025 calls. Acute Stroke Ready Level IV monthly calls have been added.

220

stakeholders attended the December rule adoption question and answer sessions



Performance Measures

The performance measures for completing the designation process are 30 days for non-continuous designations and 60 days for contingent designations. The process starts with receiving a complete application, including the fee, and ends with the commissioner approving the designation letter and certificate being sent to the facility.

Status Numbers:

Trauma	39 days non-contingent, 35 days contingent
Stroke	17 days
Maternal	38 days non-contingent, 67 days contingent
Neonatal	38 days non-contingent, 48 days contingent

DESIGNATION

Updates

Regulations • Programs • Funding



MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Medical Advisory Board (MAB) was established in 1970. It serves to advise the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on the licensing of drivers having potential medical limitations that might adversely affect their driving capabilities. See Chapter 12 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 12.092 – 12.098. The goal is to allow all who can drive safely to do so and to reduce the number and severity of motor vehicle crashes in Texas. The Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 521, charges DPS with the responsibility of determining if applicants or licensees can safely drive when a medical condition exists that has the potential to affect their ability to drive. MAB reviews these referrals from DPS for driver's licenses, licenses to carry, and school bus waivers.

Annually, MAB receives an average of 5000 referrals from DPS to review drivers license cases.

Rules

The department and MAB have provided recommendations to repeal and provide new language to Sections 1.151 and 1.152 to comply with changes to:

- [Texas Health and Safety Code Sections 12.091 – 12.098](#)
- [Texas Transportation Code Section 521.294](#), and
- [Texas Administrative Code Section 15.58](#).

This rule packet, 24R080, is scheduled for adoption in February of 2025. This reflects updates to MAB membership, operations, requirements, medical packet content, and confidentiality provisions.

Special thanks

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) members recognize Dr. Leanne Burnett, a neurologist from the Houston area, for her exemplary leadership and commitment to MAB. Dr. Burnett chaired the MAB Performance Improvement Committee and produced many innovations that updated MAB forms, practices, and organizational structure. She was instrumental in developing MAB bylaws that created an effective leadership process and led collaborative tasks with DPS that streamlined and improved the DPS referral review and medical opinions rendered. Dr. Burnett was elected the first official Chair of MAB.

Due to unplanned events, Dr. Burnett resigned from MAB in 2024, but her leadership goals and legacy of innovations continue.

NEWS AND LINKS

Local • National • Resources

NHTSA's EMS Update

Learn more about current projects and efforts in EMS from NHTSA and its Federal partners.

[Learn more](#)

CDC Newsroom

View the latest CDC public health news and press releases.

[Learn more](#)

The Bulletin

The Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons.

[Learn more](#)

Washington Update

Bi-monthly newsletter of the National Association of State EMS Officials.

[Learn more](#)

EMSC Pulse

A digest of information about the pediatric emergency medical care community.

[Learn more](#)

Integrated Healthcare

Focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.

[Learn more](#)

EMS/Trauma Systems Links

GETAC

Visit the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council web page to view council, committee, and meeting information.

Rules

Links to the Texas Administrative Code rules pertaining to EMS/Trauma Systems.

Disciplinary actions

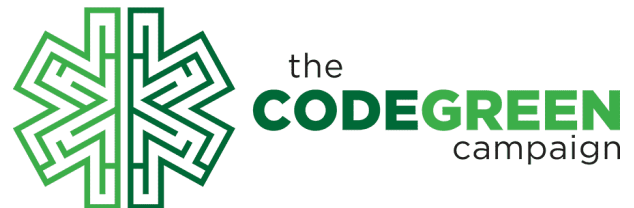
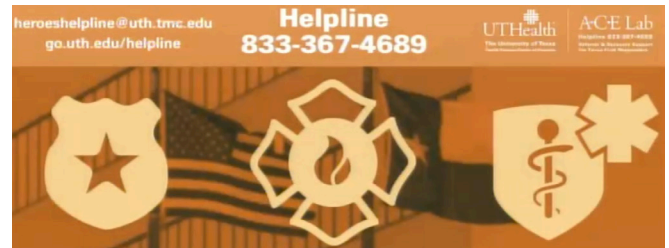
Public notice of disciplinary action by the Department of State Health Services and the Consumer Protection Division, Consumer Safety Unit.

Staff Contacts


Contact information for the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems staff and programs.



Texas Department of State Health Services



National Registry Key Initiatives



- ALS Redesign Update
- AEMT Student Minimum Competencies
- Table of Authorities / EBGs
- Scaled Scores
- NCCP Update and EBGs

For more information on all National Registry initiatives, scan this QR code or go to <https://linktr.ee/nremtcomms> for the latest updates!

Questions, comments, or suggestions about *Texas EMS Trauma News*? Contact us at EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us.

External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services.