DISPATCH

Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER/SPRING 2021

EMTs and Paramedics Administer Vaccines

On January 10, 2021, EMSA published a guidance memo from Director Dr. Dave Duncan expanding the scope for all EMS providers in California to administer COVID-19 vaccinations through a local optional scope of practice. The guidance effectively created an opportunity for California to utilize EMTs, advanced EMTs, and paramedics to supplement COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts accross the state by authorizing local EMS agencies to request an expansion of their scope of practice to include the ability to administer vaccinations.

The guidance was met with great support, as each and every one of California's 33 local EMS agencies applied and were approved for the LOSOP expansion, providing the EMS personnel within a LEMSA's region with the ability to distribute vaccines to the public. EMS personnel are now assisting with vaccination efforts in nearly all parts of the state, expanding a key area of the healthcare workforce to increase rollout and meet the needs of all Californians, especially those in hard-to-reach locations as vaccine distribution expands in all regions of the state.

EMSA commends the remarkable, lifesaving work that California's EMS personnel provide each and every day, and couldn't be more proud to equip them with the tools and skills needed to keep Californians safe and healthy now and into the future.

EMS Crew Vaccinates Seniors in Dixon

Check out this short clip showing some of California's healthcare heroes administering vaccinations at a Yolo County vaccine clinic located at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento!

Sutter Health Park Vaccine Clinic

CAL-MAT Focus: Answering the Call

Dr. Snyder waves hello from under many layers of PPE while caring for patients at the Imperial County ACS.

The contributions of the California Medical Assistance Team (CAL-MAT) throughout the COVID-19 pandemic have been truly remarkable, to say the least. Throughout the pandemic response, nearly 800 individual CAL-MAT members have served across more than 2,100 deployments, supporting no less than 89 medical missions across California since the now-distant one-year COVID-19 timestamp of the Grand Princess cruise ship docking in the Port of Oakland.

CAL-MAT personnel provide a key component of statewide disaster response, providing planning, administrative, operational, and logistical support and direct patient care to address California healthcare system and patient needs during a statewide or regional emergency response. During deployments, CAL-MAT personnel work alongside EMSA departmental staff – as well as other state, local, and federal emergency response agencies – however, the vast majority of CAL-MAT members are not government employees. Rather, most CAL-MATs are trained volunteers who are willing to take time away from their professions and personal lives and dedicate themselves to preserving the health and lives of those most in need of medical attention.

Following along with the public health mantras of 'your actions save lives' and ‘we’re all in this together,’ the pandemic, through CAL-MAT, has provided California with some of the brightest and most skilled medical practitioners to support the frontlines of emergency medical care. One CAL-MAT physician, Dr. Evan Snyder normally practices as a pediatrician focused in research, studying stem cell biology at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medica Discovery Institute in La Jolla, CA. Dr. Snyder was stuck at him home during shelter-in-place order like many others, but felt compelled that he could contribute. "During this pandemic, I was going nuts sitting on the sidelines, knowing the State could use my ICU physician skills," Dr. Snyder said.

"I just felt it was my duty to help out – and continue to do so."

Read more about Dr. Snyder's experiences serving in CAL-MAT for the first time: Hospitals Were Full. One Scientist Stepped Up.

Commission on EMS Meeting Dates

The Commission on Emergency Medical Services has set the following meeting dates for 2021 and 2022. At this time, the Commission on EMS is meeting virtually and meeting information is posted ten (10) days prior to each gathering. More information on the Commission, including meeting agendas and commissioner member appointments, is available online at www.emsa.ca.gov/ems_commission.

2021 Commission on EMS Meeting Dates:

- March 17
- June 16
- September 22
- December 8

Paramedic Licensure and Renewal

SAVE TIME, GO ONLINE!

EMSA now has a secure online portal for California paramedics to renew and apply for initial licensure! Paramedic can submit electronically in a secure registration and log-in environment.

emsa.ca.gov/paramedic

Expiration Date Extended for Active-Restricted Paramedic Licenses

Due to the continuation of the California's declared state of emergency to address the COVID-19 pandemic, EMSA extended the expiration date of active-restricted, temporary paramedic licenses to June 30, 2021. The purpose of the extension is to allow paramedic school graduates and reinstating paramedics who were unable to take the required psychomotor exam due to testing location closures to acquire and maintain temporary licenses during the pandemic.

In recent months, testing locations have reopened across the state. Active-restricted licensees are encouraged to complete their exam(s) as soon as possible to avoid license expiration.

California State STEMI and Stroke Summit

This year, EMSA will be conducting the first-ever annual STEMI and Stroke Summit. The Summit will provide an education forum on current trends for optimal care, newest technology, and best practice on both aspects of clinical and system management of care for both ST-Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) and Stroke patients.

The purpose of EMSA's first annual STEMI and Stroke Summit is to increase the level of care and reduce morbidity and mortality for patients experiencing STEMI and Stroke in California. Frequent educational updates are essential, since the evidence-based care for these time-sensitive emergencies is continually updated as new literature and innovative technologies become available. Lecture and discussion topics for the Summit will include emerging technologies in care, system optimization, updates in management, and the future in STEMI and Stroke Management. The event will occur across two half-day sessions on June 8-9, 2021. The target audience are any medical personnel and administrative staff involved in the management of STEMI and Stroke patients across the full continuum of care. Registration will be free and continuing education credits will be available at no charge.

Stay tuned for online registration and more information about the event, which will be provided mid-March 2021. If you have any questions about the event, please contact EMSA Specialty Care Systems Specialist, Dr. Farid Nasr at farid.nasr@emsa.ca.gov.

Ambulance Patient Offload Time 2020 Reporting

EMSA recently published the 2020 Ambulance Patient Offload Report in December of last year. The report was issued to the California state legislature and is available to view on EMSA's website. The legislative report is the product of a yearlong collaborative effort by EMSA and California's local EMS agencies to understand factors impacting ambulance patient offload times and delays, and develop recommendations on how best to decrease delays statewide. EMSA previously presented the APOT report to the Commission on Emergency Medical Services at its December 2020 meeting.

APOT Legislative Report

For more information about EMSA's APOT data collection and reporting, please contact APOT Research Specialist Adam Davis at Adam.Davis@emsa.ca.gov.

EMS Awards Nominations Extended to March 31

Brave. Dedicated. Willing. Reliable.

These words describe the 86,000 licensed or certified EMS providers in California. They demonstrate these qualities every day by coming to the aid of others when they are most in need and working to ensure that the EMS system operates well. However, each year, due to circumstance or extraordinary effort, certain individuals among us shine the brightest.

EMSA is still accepting nominations for the 2020 California EMS Awards! EMS providers, supervisors, and managers are encouraged to nominate any deserving individual for recognition. The deadline for 2020 nominations has been extended to March 31, 2021, so get your nominations to us soon!
Get started today at emsa.ca.gov/awards!

List EMS Jobs on EMSA Website

Did you know that you can post your organization's EMS and Disaster-related job openings on EMSA's website? If your organization would like some extra visibility for its current job vacancies, EMSA will post them on its EMS Careers web page to help spread the word.

If you have a California-based EMS-related job announcement or a Disaster-response related job announcement you would like posted, please email the announcement to the ExternalAffairs@emsa.ca.gov. Requests should include the Job Title, Company/Agency, Job Type, Location, and Final Filing Date, as well as a link to where people can apply, or a job announcement in Microsoft Word or .pdf format.

Please feel free to take a look at the current job vacancies to get an idea of how your organization might utilize this opportunity:

Current EMS Job Opportunities in California

Community Paramedicine Pilot Project Report

University of California, San Francisco recently released the 8th update to the Office of State Health Planning & Development (OSHPD) Community Paramedicine Pilot Project Evaluation Public Report. Healthforce Center at UCSF conducted an evaluation of the pilot project that was funded by the California Health Care Foundation. In January 2017, Healthforce Center released a report that presented findings from the evaluation for the first 16 months of the pilot project. Seven updates to the report have been released that reflect new data from the pilot projects. The latest update to the report, which was released in February 2021, presents findings from the time the initial group of pilot projects began enrolling patients (June 2015 to October 2015) through September 2020.

The evaluation found that community paramedics are collaborating successfully with physicians, nurses, behavioral health professionals, social workers, and outreach workers to fill gaps in the health and social services safety net. The full report is available to read on EMSA's website at emsa.ca.gov/community_paramedicine.