



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS
Post Office Box 1400 • Clinton, Mississippi 39060-1400
Phone: 800-34-NAEMT or 601-924-7744 • Fax: 601-924-7325
Website: www.NAEMT.org

March 10, 2008

Dr. Brooke Lerner, PhD
SALT Principal Investigator

RE: SALT Triage

Dear Brooke:

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this project. NAEMT considers our relationship with CDC one of our most valued.

As requested, we have deliberated the SALT Triage Proposal and its potential impact on our constituency. As you know, that constituency is comprised mainly of 30,000 EMT's and Paramedics. In our deliberations, we melded the issues down to one central question: What is the impact of the endorsement of SALT on our membership and those patients they serve? We realize there is a lack of clinical evidence that finds in favor of one triage system over another so this became our focal point.

After deliberating the proposal for the last several months and seeking input from our members, the NAEMT Board of Directors has voted not to endorse SALT. In short, we believe that a standardized triage system is an important goal; but, should convey significant clinical benefit over existing widely used triage systems. To our knowledge, given the lack of data, SALT will not accomplish this. Additionally, we believe that implementation would be time intensive and costly for our constituent agencies which would likely result in fragmented implementation. In conclusion, we believe there remain too many unresolved issues and unanswered questions to endorse SALT at this time.

On a personal note, please accept our thanks for the tremendous effort you made in preparing this proposal. We greatly appreciate your providing a forum for the EMS community to share our opinions and perspectives on such an important national issue.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Johnston, BA, REMT-P
President