

# The Field EMS Bill Modernizes our Emergency Medical Services System



**20<sup>th</sup> Century:** Antiquated  
Payment, Delivery and  
Federal Oversight Model  
Based on Transport to  
Hospital

**21<sup>st</sup> Century:** Modernized,  
Innovative, Prepared,  
Patient-Centered and  
Integrated Emergency  
Medical Response and  
Mobile Services

## Aligns Federal Leadership for Emergency Medical Systems

- Clarifies HHS Lead for Emergency Medical Care
- Facilitates National Emergency Medical Services Strategy
- Creates Office of Emergency Medical Care per 2007 Presidential Directive

## Promotes Innovation and Quality Through Reimbursement

- Establishes Field EMS Alternative Delivery Program which enables voluntary participation by Field EMS agencies in innovative shared savings delivery models
- Establishes Ambulance Quality Incentive Program to reward Field EMS agencies that voluntarily report on quality measures

## Modernizes Field EMS Capability

- Creates Field EMS Preparedness Program
- Creates Field EMS Workforce Program
- Improves Field EMS Quality via medical oversight, patient safety and data
- Enhances accountability for system performance through measures development and integration of field EMS into National Health Information Infrastructure

## Improves Evidence-Base of Field Care

- Requires evaluation and recommendations to enhance Field EMS federal research
- Establishes AHRQ Center of Excellence to support research and evaluate cost-effective field EMS delivery and improved treatments

## Utilizes Self-Financing Mechanism so No Additional Cost to Taxpayers

- Establishes Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund to utilize voluntary contributions of taxpayers to fund authorized programs
- Authorization total is \$271 million

## What is Field EMS?

Field EMS refers to emergency and mobile medical services provided to patients prior to or outside of a medical facility. Patients call for Field EMS when they have had an accident or are experiencing a medical emergency, including heart attack, difficulty breathing, a fall or accident, drowning, cardiac arrest, stroke, drug overdose or acute illness. Field EMS may provide both basic and advanced medical care at the scene of an emergency and en route to a hospital. Field EMS also can provide preventive medical assessment and care; chronic disease assessment and management support; post-discharge follow-up assessment and management support; and post-assessment patient transport, arranged transportation or referral to other community health or social service resources.

The National Center for Policy Analysis, a nonprofit research organization, estimates that the ACA will generate approximately 900,000 additional emergency department (ED) visits annually. Just over 15 percent of all patients presenting to an ED arrive via ambulance, which represents a relative increase of 17 percent over the past decade.

## What is an Emergency Medical Services system?

Field EMS is part of the emergency medical services continuum of care. It may begin with the call center that receives the call for and dispatches help, emergency first responders, an ambulance service with EMTs and/or paramedics, physicians and nurses who provide advice via radio or phone, air medical services (helicopters and small airplanes), hospital receiving facilities, and governmental and medical oversight.

## Who provides Emergency Medical Services?

When a person becomes ill or injured and dials 911, the call is answered by a Field EMS dispatcher, who is trained to obtain key information from the caller about the location and type of emergency. The dispatcher also may give the caller patient care instructions while sending emergency responders to the scene of the emergency.

These responders include:

- Emergency Medical Responders
- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians
- Paramedics

# Did you know?

