



Serving our nation's EMS Practitioners

The **National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians** (NAEMT) submits the following comments on future health care reform in our country:

As the U.S. Congress grapples with the challenge of reforming our nation's health care so that all Americans have access to affordable health care coverage and the cost of health care is brought under control, NAEMT, the professional association of our nation's Emergency Medical Services practitioners, urges the following principles be observed:

1. Both emergency and non-emergency ambulance services are covered services.
2. Fee schedules for medical insurance are based on the cost of providing the service as determined by the GAO study on ambulance costs.
3. EMS and emergency physicians are active participants in the process of health care reform.
4. Analysis is conducted to determine the impact of health care reform on Emergency Department overcrowding and the surge capacity of EMS systems specifically, and health care in general, in the event of major disasters or public health emergencies.
5. EMS can contribute to more optimal health care and achieve health care savings when integrated with primary care and allowed to refer or transport patients to a variety of medically appropriate facilities.
6. Cost savings should not be achieved by reducing the capacity of EMS to respond with clinically meaningful response times or a certain capacity to surge.
7. EMS data is collected and available for improvements in EMS care, and is integrated with the data of the overall health care system.

About NAEMT

Formed in 1975 and today more than 28,000 members strong, NAEMT is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to representing the professional interests of EMS practitioners, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders and other professionals working in pre-hospital emergency medicine. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.