Georgia OEMS Update – Epidemiology and Operations

OEMS / Friday, 04/09/2021

Agenda

• Epidemiology Report
• Renewals
• Recent changes – the Who, What, and Why
• Georgia’s EMS Strategic Plan
• What’s Next?
• Questions
First...thank you for all that you do!

COVID-19 Epidemiology Report

Dr. Cherie Drenzek
Epidemiology Report – Dr. Cherie Drenzek – graphs as of 04/08/2021

Cases Over Time (By date of report)
Confirmed Deaths by Date of Report

Reported cases per 100,000 people last 14 days - as of 04/08/2021

Georgia - April 08
- Cases (last 2 weeks): 13,112
- Cases per 100k (last 2 weeks): 121
- Cases (total): 859,388
- Cases per 100k (total): 7,933
- Population: 10,833,472
Thank you!

- Georgia’s EMS Personnel and Agencies have been critical towards Georgia’s vaccine efforts and ending this pandemic.
Overdose Cluster

- Counterfeit pills
  - Xanax/Percocet
  - Contain Fentanyl

- Where:
  - Richmond County
  - Coastal District
  - Northwest District
  - But...this can easily show up in other areas of the state.

Emergency Medical Services Data

- Chatham county (District 9-1)
  - 1 unknown pill from unknown person on street, 3/5

- Gwinnett county (District 3-4)
  - Patient took pill of fentanyl, 3/5
  - Patient ingested unknown pill, 3/7

- Douglas county (District 3-1)
  - Patient took pill at gas station and believes it is fentanyl, 3/6

- Fulton county (District 3-2)
  - Patient took unknown pill, 3/8

- Chattooga county (District 1-1)
  - Patient took a pill they thought was Roxicodone, 3/15

- DeKalb county (District 3-5)
  - Patient took unknown pill from his friend, 3/15
  - Patient took unknown pill, 3/15
Notes

• Some reports have said that there are some pills of pure Fentanyl being marketed as Xanax
  o Chatham County
  o Richmond County

• If a suspected counterfeit pill is found:
  o **Wear adequate PPE when handling the substance.**
  o Specific recommendations from the GBI include double gloving, gown, N95 mask and goggles
  o Double bag the substance with a bio-hazard label on the outside and handle per agency protocol.
ODs are Not just in GA

Questions for Dr. Drenzek

- Epidemiology
Renewals

David Newton
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Late Renewals (4/1/2021 – 9/30/2021)

- “LATE Georgia Medic Renewal”
- Sometimes the system “spins” – navigating away before it is done processing may cause the application to not process in a timely manner
- Late Fee waived during Public Health Emergency
Once a medic renews

- CEUs can start being counted from that date for the next renewal cycle
- Beginning dates for training reports will be set to this date

Need a login for LMS? – www.mygemsis.org/lms

Current or Previous Licensee - but never logged in or forgot username?

Never Licensed & no account?

Need help?
Call OEMS @ 770-996-3133
During the Public Health Emergency

- We are still doing:
  - Temporary licenses (120 days)
  - Medic Reinstatements (2017-2020)
  - Special Circumstances for alternate staffing

Provisional Licensing

- NREMT will no longer issue new Provisional Certifications (passed CBT, not yet passed Psychomotor) after 6/30/2021
- All NREMT Provisional Certifications expire on 12/31/2021, and are not renewable
- All Georgia Provisional licenses will expire on 12/31/2021, and are not renewable
  - Georgia will continue to accept applications for provisional licenses until December of 2021
- Once a Georgia Provisionally licensed medic has gained full NREMT Certification – please call/email OEMS (oems-licensing@dph.ga.gov), and we will quickly convert to full licensure with an expiration date of 3/31 (based on NREMT expiration).
  - MUST be converted before 12/31/2021
Agency Personnel Roster in LMS

- **Benefits:**
  - Agencies can see training reports and expiration dates of all medics on their roster
  - Agencies will be notified if a medic retires, expires or is sanctioned.
  - Helps us understand the workforce:
    - Where are medics working
    - How many jobs they have
    - Where do they live vs. where they work
### Training Levels associated to License Level: Paramedic

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### Paramedic Renewal Requirements

Reporting inaccessibility from 04/08/2019 to 04/08/2021

#### Additional Content (Care Hours)

| Care Provider - Airway/Respiration/Ventilation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8.00 | 0.00 |
| Care Provider - Medical | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Care Provider - Operations | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.00 | 0.00 |
| Care Provider - OTHER-GENERAL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 36.00 | 0.00 |
| Traffic Incident Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

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### Mandatory Content

| Care Provider - Cardiovascular/Stroke (Does not include CPR/ACLS) | 4.00 | 0.00 | 8.00 | 0.00 |
| Care Provider - Pediatrics | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.00 | 0.00 |
| Care Provider - Trauma | 4.00 | 0.00 | 6.00 | 0.00 |

**Requirement Total:**

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### Applicant's Topical Training Hours

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| Care Provider - Operations | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.00 | 0.00 |
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| Traffic Incident Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

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Lots of questions about medics who are deployed

- We don’t have a “pause” on licensure
- When the medics return from deployment, they should reach out to the Office of EMS and Trauma and we will help them with transitioning back

Vision and Mission
Changes in the last 2 years – the Who, What and Why

David Newton
Vision for Georgia’s EMS System

• A Healthy and Safe Georgia - Exceptional patient outcomes through comprehensive, statewide, integrated, data-driven, equitable, and people-centered Emergency Medical Services and time-sensitive systems of care.

Mission – Why we exist

• The mission of the Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma is to reduce death and disability by providing regulation, guidance, and leadership to enable the assessment, planning, development, and promotion of statewide Emergency Medical Services and time-sensitive systems of care.

• Licensing is just a part of what we do.
First, let’s talk about the Emergency Rule...
The Emergency Rule

- This was the **wrong way** to do this…and we admit that.

We have an opportunity to make a positive impact...

- The GCC is a communications center whose purpose is:
  - “the coordination of emergency room use in the 13-county metro Atlanta area.”
- Funding is appropriated to DPH for the Office of EMS and Trauma to oversee this project
DPH GCC Liaison

- Manages contract between DPH & GCC
- Liaison between GCC & EMS, hospitals, & advisory board
- Provides education & resources

Rachel Barnhard
  - rachel.barnhard@dph.ga.gov
  - 470-895-0025

FY2021 – HB 793

Section 38: Public Health, Department of

38.4. Emergency Preparedness/Trauma System Improvement
Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to prepare for natural disasters, bioterrorism, and other emergencies, as well as improving the capacity of the state's trauma system.

| 3730 | Provide funds to support Grady Memorial Hospital's efforts to continue the coordination of emergency room use in the 13-county metro Atlanta area. | $1,200,000 |
Georgia Coordinating Center (GCC): Purpose & Funding

**HB 793 – FY 2021**
- $1.2M
- “Provide funds to support Grady Memorial Hospital’s efforts to continue the coordination of emergency room use in the 13-county metro Atlanta area.”

**HB 80 – FY 2021A**
- Additional $289,000 total of $1.489M
- “…for the Grady Regional Coordinating Center for the continued coordination of emergency room use.”

**HB 81 – FY 2022G**
- Additional $506,000 total of $1.706M
- “Increase funds to support Grady Memorial Hospital’s efforts to continue the coordination of emergency room use in the 13-county metro Atlanta area.”

GCC: Then & Now

- The GCC began as a Regional Coordinating Center (RCC) in Dec 2019, to coordinate emergency department use in the Atlanta area as a result of the flood inside of Grady Memorial Hospital.
- Now funded by the General Assembly
- GCC Staffing: FT staff employed by Grady, including GCC manager
- Website: [https://georgiarcc.org](https://georgiarcc.org)
  - Tracking hospital diversion status, EMS transport destination data
- GCC Advisory Board
  - Will advise DPH on matters related to the GCC
GCC: System Coordination

**Provides information and is a resource to ambulance crews:**
- Transport destination choice assistance
- GCC does not divert or direct crews – they provide information to the crew for the crew to make destination decisions based on the agency’s protocols
- GCC connects call to receiving facility for EMS to give report
- Addresses wall time issues
- Advocates for EMS crews and their patients

**Assists in the coordination of emergency department use:**
- Hospital on saturation or diversion
- Specialty care
- Centralized database for info regarding transports

EMS Educational Updates

Richard Rhodes
Educational Updates

• **Who** (where did the idea come from)
  - EMSAC Education Committee after examination of NREMT pass rates in Georgia
  - EMS Strategic Plan 2020

• **What** (what is the change)
  - Instructor Licensure changes → New Instructor License Levels
  - More data → Data reporting requirements for Educational Programs (in LMS)
  - Standardized policies → New policies on initial education and continuing education

• **Why** (what is the change trying to address)
  - To address the workforce needs of the future, we are starting at the beginning – with EDUCATION

Previous Recorded EMS Education Updates

• [www.ems.ga.gov](http://www.ems.ga.gov)
  - On left sidebar: “EMS Initial/Continuing Education” → “EMS Initial Education”
Policies (Based on Educational Rules Revisions)

- [www.ems.ga.gov](http://www.ems.ga.gov)
- This is the first time we are seeking public comments on proposed policies – deadline extended till Friday, 4/30/2021

- **New Continuing Education Policy** available for review. Comments will be taken from Friday, 3/26/2021 - Friday, 4/30/2021, and then the policy and comments will be reviewed by the Statewide EMS Educational Advisory Committee.
  - DRAFT Continuing Education Policy
  - Survey for providing public comment

- **New EMS Initial Education Program Designation Policy** available for review. Comments will be taken from Monday, 3/29/2021 - Friday, 4/30/2021, and then the policy and comments will be review by the Statewide EMS Educational Advisory Committee and the Office of EMS and Trauma.
  - DRAFT EMS Initial Education Program Designation Policy
  - Survey for providing public comment

License Management System

Kelly Joiner
License Management System

• **Who** (where did the idea come from)
  - DPH Leadership support to replace the out-dated SENDSS licensing module

• **What** (what is the change)
  - Online License Management System

• **Why** (what is the change trying to address)
  - Need to integrate licensing data with NEMSIS data and with NREMT for certification
  - Need to automate licensing processes
  - Need for an online system for specialty care center designations

Scope of Practice

David Newton/Kelly Joiner
Scope of Practice

- **Who** (where did the idea come from)
  - Industry feedback, EMSMDAC, precedent in other states
- **What** (what is the change)
  - Vaccines:
    - EMTs, AEMTs, CTs – during PHE only – reaffirmed by Executive Order and in recently passed legislation
    - Paramedics during normal practice
  - Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics (more in a moment)
- **Why** (what is the change trying to address)
  - Being able to bill higher rate for skills not included in paramedic initial education and that are above the paramedic scope
  - Ensuring that advanced skills that are not normally taught in initial education paramedic programs are taught and personnel are appropriately credentialed

Post-Licensure Skills

- Initiation and maintenance of **Advanced Transport Ventilators (ATV)** that are capable of more advanced modes (i.e., capable of adjusting more than rate and tidal volume). (n = 41)
- **Initiation of additional units of blood/blood products**, includes initiating an additional blood/blood product infusion if supplied by the sending facility after all proper safety checks are completed by the sending facility and the ambulance has addressed appropriate storage and temperature maintenance during transport. (n = 18)
- Maintenance of **Intra-Aortic Balloon Pumps (IABPs)** (n = 8)
- Maintenance of **Transvenous Cardiac Pacing (TVP)** devices (n = 5)
- Maintenance of **External Cardiac Support Devices**, including percutaneous Left Ventricular Assist Devices (pLVAD), Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) devices, etc. (n = 5)
- Administration or maintenance of **High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC)**. (n = 4)
Post-Licensure Skills Process

Three Applications/Requests to Submit:
1. Agency application to request approval for PLS;
2. Training Request; AND
3. Agency application to add Paramedics for PLS.

Which agencies have PLS? www.mygemsis.org/lms
Select Level

Select Training Levels or Post-Licensure Skill Level
- EMR (Initial Education)
- EMT (Initial Education)
- AEMT (Initial Education)
- Paramedic (Initial Education)
- PLS - Advanced transport ventilators
- PLS - Initiation of additional units of blood/blood products
- PLS - Maintenance of IABPs
- PLS - Maintenance of Transvenous Cardiac Pacing
- PLS - Maintenance of External cardiac support devices
- PLS - High Flow Nasal Cannula

Training Levels or Post-Licensure Skill Level:

License Number:

Region: Select Region

Search

Search Results

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LEGISLATION and REGULATION - Strategic Goal #1

• **Standardize Regional EMS Council Bylaws with Mandatory and Suggested Components**
  - Mandatory education for all Council members regarding conflict of interests and open meetings
  - Mandatory Conflict of Interest disclosure and ongoing update and tracking
  - Minimum membership makeup including all systems of care and a maximum for agencies
  - Minimum number of officers: (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, parliamentarian)
  - Minimum mandatory plus suggested committees
  - Provide education to all statewide & regional advisory council members on their roles. And ensure meeting agendas adhere to primary accountabilities of councils.
    - Committees submit reports one week prior to meetings and are published on SOEMS/T website.
    - Develop new member orientation program
Statewide and Regional EMS Councils

- **Who** (where did the idea come from)
  o EMS Strategic Plan 2020

- **What** (what is the change)
  o Regional Councils added to DPH Rules to **recognize their importance and establish their permanence**
  o Standardized bylaws for Regional Councils
  o Updated bylaws for Statewide Councils
  o Guidance and clarification of zoning process
  o Conflict of Interest disclosures in a standardized format
  o Parliamentarian added to officers

- **Why** (what is the change trying to address)
  o Confusion regarding the zoning process
  o Bylaws had significant regional differences and needed updating

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EMS Data

David Newton
Data Validation Rules

- **Who** (where did the idea come from)
  - Validation rules are part of the NEMSIS standard
  - Our experience with Version 2→agencies needed cleaner, more usable data
  - EMS Strategic Plan 2020

- **What** (what is the change)
  - New and updated validation rules for:
    - Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest
    - STEMI
    - Trauma
    - Stroke
    - Wall Times

Data Validation Rules - **Why** (what is the change trying to address)

- **Timeliness**
  - Example: time of record submission to GEMSIS Elite

- **Accuracy**
  - Example: Accurately measuring wall times

- **Completeness**
  - Example: completion of incident county

- **Uniformity**
  - Example: Schema – the NEMSIS V3.4 standard

- **Integration**
  - Example: System of Care registries (Trauma, Stroke, Cardiac)

- **Accessibility**
  - Example: time of record submission to GEMSIS Elite so that the record is visible in Hospital Hub

- **Validity**
  - Example: rules that address the logical order of times
Validations Rules Training

- Two opportunities (identical sessions):
  - Tuesday, 4/13/2021 @ 10am
  - Wednesday, 4/14/2021 @ 2pm

- Links for training available on OEMS website (www.ems.ga.gov)
  - Public Notices, Regional and Statewide Meetings
    - EMS Meetings Calendar

Biospatial

- **Who** (where did the idea come from)
  - National collaborative/NASEMSO

- **What** (what is the change)
  - Advanced data visualizations for EMS and Trauma Registry data

- **Why** (what is the change trying to address)
  - Performance measure assessment
  - Pre-built visual analytics of EMS related operational and clinical data
  - Pre-built visual analytics of Trauma Registry data
Biospatial – 2014 data now available

Biospatial 101 Trainings

- Biospatial 101 training opportunities (two sessions – choose one)
  - Friday, 4/30/2021 @ 10am
  - Friday, 5/7/2021 @ 10am
• **Who** (where did the idea come from)
  - EMS Strategic Plan 2020 – Education Strategic Goal #2A - Ensure quality continuing education for EMS personnel - Secure online learning management system for the State Office of EMS/Trauma

• **What** (what is the change)
  - Online learning management system for use by ALL medics, system of care personnel, and public health personnel in Georgia
  - For agencies who wish to provide courses, this is a platform where courses can be posted for their medics and medics from other agencies

• **Why** (what is the change trying to address)
  - Widely available quality online EMS continuing education
  - Seamless addition of completed hours to the LMS training record for personnel – OEMS will download this for you
TRAIN Georgia – see approved courses on LMS (www.mygemsis.org/lms)

- 27 available courses approved by OEMS with more being created!
Objective 1.7: Enhance Emergency Systems of Care

- Ensuring the right care, at the right place and at the right time saves lives. Designating the capabilities of emergency systems of care will provide EMS with a better understanding of the resources hospitals have to provide patients. By 2024, DPH will:
  - 1.7.1: Designate Emergency Cardiac Care Centers throughout the state.
  - 1.7.2: Analyze EMS and hospital data related to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) and heart attack patients.
  - 1.7.3: Utilize the Department’s license management system to streamline all processes related to the: designation of trauma, stroke, emergency cardiac care and perinatal/maternal specialty care centers, licensing of EMS agencies, medics and instructors, and approval of EMS initial and continuing education programs.
Objective 3.1: Rapidly Respond to Public Health Emergencies

- DPH assures the health and well-being of individuals and communities throughout Georgia by preparing for, responding to and recovering from public health emergencies. Additionally, the Emergency Preparedness and Response section of DPH is tasked under the Georgia Emergency Operations plan to lead efforts related to Emergency Support Function 8 (health and medical) and Emergency Support Function 6 (mass care). By 2024, DPH will:
  - 3.1.3: Coordinate care and transportation for highly infectious disease patients to appropriate receiving facilities designated in the Infectious Disease Network (IDN) using grant funding to assist EMS agencies that participate in the Georgia Infectious Disease Transportation Network (IDTN).
  - 3.1.4: Maintain and expand IDN by designating hospitals and EMS agencies with demonstrated competencies in responding to serious communicable diseases such as Ebola, etc.

Objective 3.3: Strengthen Georgia’s Emergency Medical Service (EMS) System

- Georgia EMS has 382 licensed EMS agencies and more than 22,000 licensed medics who provide emergency medical services for 10 million people in 159 counties. Agencies operate more than 2,500 ground ambulances, 17 air ambulances and over 1,000 medical first responder vehicles and respond to 2.2 million EMS calls per year. By 2024, DPH will:
  - 3.3.1: Use EMS regional training coordinators to guide EMS education programs in addressing industry and community needs, particularly in rural Georgia.
  - 3.3.2: Modify the EMS instructor licensure process to ensure that education provided to EMS students prepares them for the changing needs of the industry and their communities.
Objective 3.3: Strengthen Georgia’s Emergency Medical Service (EMS) System (continued)

- 3.3.3: Use the Department’s License Management System to gather and analyze data regarding the EMS workforce demographics and future needs, and to identify potential EMS personnel shortages in rural Georgia.
- 3.3.4: Develop key EMS performance measures related to various systems of care (trauma, stroke, cardiac, pediatrics) to identify areas of improvement for all 911 Emergency Response Zones.
- 3.3.5: Use EMS, Trauma Registry and Cardiac Registry data to: identify rural areas where trauma and/or emergency cardiac care centers are needed, encourage hospitals to seek designation, and assist these hospitals through the designation process.

- 3.3.6: Develop an online training program for EMS medical directors with a greater focus on the needs of rural EMS systems and their communities.
- 3.3.7: Utilize EMS run data to enhance surveillance related to opioid overdoses, flu-like symptoms, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, heart attacks, strokes, falls, sepsis and other potential public health threats.
EMS Strategic Plan 2021-2026

David Newton

Previous Topics
Georgia Core Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Strategy Name</th>
<th>Core Strategy Description</th>
<th>Reference to Strat Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>Develop, Enhance and Maintain Partnerships with Key Stakeholders</td>
<td>Previous Topics: LEGISLATION and REGULATION, Communication Additional Topics: Public Education, Integration of Health Services, Evolving Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce</td>
<td>Develop a Sustainable Workforce</td>
<td>Previous Topics: EDUCATION, HEALTH and SAFETY, HUMAN RESOURCES – RECRUITMENT and RETENTION, Communication Additional Topics: Preparedness: Health Threats, Evolving Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Develop and Enhance Infrastructure</td>
<td>Previous Topics: LEGISLATION and REGULATION, EMS MEDICAL DIRECTION, EMS SYSTEM DESIGN and BASELINE STANDARDS, EMS SYSTEM FINANCE, Preparedness: Health Threats, Communication Additional Topics: Legal &amp; Compliance, EMS-C, Operational Leadership, Evolving Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>Enhance Data Quality and Evaluation for Operational and Clinical Performance Data</td>
<td>Previous Topics: EMS DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, Outcomes Data - EMS Research, Communication Additional Topics: Integration of Health Services, Evolving Industry</td>
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</tbody>
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What is next?

David Newton

Upcoming

- More courses on TRAIN Georgia
- TRAIN Course Provider Organization Training (2\textsuperscript{nd} Quarter CY2021)
- GCC Advisory Board
- EMS Strategic Plan 2021-2026
Questions? And Open Discussion

Thanks for all that you do!

- Be safe
- Be prepared
- Watch your emails