



EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH!

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What is the NAEMD?

by Jeff J. Clawson, M.D.

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Recently several agencies have asked me about the background and origin of the NAEMD and of its relationship to Medical Priority Consultants. Since its inception in December of 1988, the Academy's registry of certifications has grown to nearly 7,000 individuals, representing approximately 2,000 progressive EMS agencies throughout the U.S. and Canada. With such incredible interest and growth, the origins, mission and methods of the NAEMD has become an important topic worth discussing in this newsletter. The Academy was initially funded with seed money provided by Medical Priority Consultants, Inc. (MPC), the EMS and EMD consulting firm which I co-founded in July of 1987. At the outset, the Academy's purpose was to provide an EMD certification registry and international forum for discussing standards and issues relating to the future of Emergency Medical Dispatch.

Since its inception, the NAEMD has gone through the process of becoming a non-profit organization under the rules

established by the Federal Government. Although legally separate from Medical

Priority Consultants, the Academy still leases its part-time staff from MPC. It's primary funding comes from EMD certification and recertification fees. Academy membership today can be obtained in any one of five categories: *Certified EMD, Executive, Instructor, Associate* or *Accredited*.

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After the release in 1990 of the 10th (or Advanced) edition of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS), I donated to the Academy, as a gift, the MPDS patents and copyrights and the rights to maintain and improve the MPDS protocols under a prescribed scientific methodology. It was felt by many, and I agreed, that a single physician should not be solely responsible for making decisions regarding the evolving science of emergency medical dispatch.

To address the scientific issues related to emergency medical dispatch and to be the official "stewards of the MPDS protocols," the NAEMD established the College of Fellows, consisting of internationally recognized experts in EMS, EMD, and public safety telecommunications. The College of Fellows' express purpose and mission statement is as follows: *"To conduct an on-going review of the current standards of care and practice in Emergency Medical Dispatch and evaluate the tools and mechanisms used to meet or exceed those standards."*

The initial members of the College are currently serving a voluntary 5-year term. Just as the American Heart Association sets the standards of CPR,

BLS and ACLS, the NAEMD's College of Fellows maintains the standards and integrity of the Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System, the NAEMD certification curriculum, and all aspects of Dispatch Life Support (DLS).

The MPDS protocols, with telephone instructions for CPR, airway obstruction relief, and childbirth assistance have afforded NAEMD-certified dispatchers the opportunity to help

hundreds of thousands of people in their moment of crisis. It is essential that they be maintained in a state-of-the-art condition. EMDs have been recognized as an important link in what the American Heart Association has termed the *"Chain of Survival."*

What started out as a "shaky idea" in Salt Lake City has withstood the test of time and scrutiny. It is my goal as President of the Academy, that the science of EMD, through the efforts of the Academy and its membership, be maintained at the cutting-edge of effective and efficient pre-hospital patient care. ■

A College of Fellows

by Robert L. Martin

from Summer 92 (Vol. 3, No. 2)

The NAEMD is comprised of Nationally Certified EMD's, and medical control and administrative personnel. The **College of Fellows** is the standard-setting body of the NAEMD, working closely with the Board of Directors. The College of Fellows' purpose & Mission Statement is:

"To conduct an on-going review of the current standards of care and practice in Emergency Medical Dispatch and evaluate the tools and mechanisms used to meet or exceed those standards."

The College of Fellows is a unified international scientific body of experts and maintains the integrity and credibility of the *Advanced* MPDS protocols. This is done through a pre-established process of reviewing and, where appropriate, approving proposed modifications and improvements to the protocols. Without such a process, an insightful

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