



**SMEMSIC Position Paper July 7, 2008
Standards, Accreditation & Certification**

Introduction

In August 1996, the *EMS Agenda for the Future* (the *Agenda*) was published. The *Agenda* defined a vision for the future of EMS education. This vision consists of five (5) primary steps, some of which have already been completed and published.

- The *National EMS Core Content (Core Content)* was published in 2005
- The *National EMS Scope of Practice Model (Scope of Practice)* is a consensus document that was published in 2006
- The Education Standards (*the Standards*), currently in Draft 3
- A *National EMS Education Program Accreditation (Accreditation)*. It has been stated CoAEMSP is the only one positioned to be the accrediting organization
- A *National EMS Certification (Certification)*. It has been stated the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) is the only one positioned to be the certifying organization

Implementation of the Standards, Accreditation, and Certification will have a huge effect on the delivery system of EMS education. The Society of Michigan EMS Instructor Coordinators endorses the implementation of all three remaining steps to include specifying CoAEMSP as the national accrediting agency and the NREMT as the national testing organization.

Discussion

Standards

The Standards are the “floor” not the “ceiling” for education/topic content. It is anticipated that Michigan will add to these standards and provide a testing mechanism for these additional standards. Textbook publishers are writing their textbooks to these standards and the national certifying agency will only test to the stated Standards. Any additional content required by Michigan must have a defined mechanism to ensure competency (testing) for program graduates and EMS personnel seeking reciprocity from another state. If Michigan does not accept the Standards as the minimum we will need to develop our own.

Accreditation

Program accreditation is used to ensure the delivery of quality education and ensure future stability of the education institution/organization. A national accreditation will aid in the consistency of programs across the United States. It is recognized there is a financial burden associated with any accreditation, however institutions/organizations that are willing and able to accept this burden demonstrate their current fiscal stability and future commitment to excellence.

The NREMT has issued a policy stating they will only accept Paramedic test applicants from those who have successfully completed a Paramedic

program that is nationally accredited by CoAEMSP. Although CoAEMSP may not be only national EMS education accrediting organization, it is the only one NREMT will accept (at this time).

Certification

The NREMT has positioned itself as the national EMS certifying organization. Their commitment to excellence is second to none in testing and their system is efficient and effective.

Position

Standards

The Standards should be accepted as the minimum standards in Michigan. Additional content should be added in the identified areas where the Michigan curriculum exceeds the Standards.

Accreditation

National accreditation should be required for Paramedic programs in Michigan. Should Michigan continue to utilize the NREMT as the certifying/testing organization (at the Paramedic level), then the national accreditation organization must be consistent with their requirements.

Certification

The NREMT should continue to be the certifying/testing organization for initial EMS licensure, at all levels, in Michigan. The State should continue to evaluate the testing process to ensure it is meeting and/or exceeding our needs.