• DHEW and DOT efforts to regionalize emergency care in 1970’s failed in many states
  – Initial efforts did not include role for states
  – After action of DHEW EMS program highlighted need for states to fund, coordinate, and legally enable regionalization
• Efforts to regionalization emergency care have continued due to need for time critical intervention for specific conditions – states play a varying role
• Recent IOM emphasized need for a coordinated, integrated, and accountable approach
  – Hospital and prehospital resources - categorized and integrated
  – Uniform EMS protocols, clinical pathways, and standards of care
  – Interoperable communications and data systems
  – Systems that are funded, legally empowerment, and accountable
• States must play a lead role to ensure uniform and effective statewide approaches to the regionalization of emergency care