Supporting a High-Quality EMS Workforce

EMS at the Crossroads: Chapter 4

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Disclosure Information

**Presenter:** Ronald G. Pirrallo, MD, MHSA

**Funding Disclosure**
- NIH supported grants Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium and IMMEDIATE Trial
- EMSC Prehospital Pediatric Pain Management

**Financial Disclosure**
- Unpaid ad hoc consultant to ZOLL Medical Inc. and General Electric
Disclosure Information

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Intellectual Bias:
- Board Member: National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP)
- Chairman: Longitudinal Emergency Medical Technician Attributes & Demographics Study (LEADS) Committee, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

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What we think we know

- How many EMTs are in the workforce?
  - 775,000
  - 192,000
  - 132,000

Maybe we don’t know much...
What we think we know

- Who are the EMTs in the workforce?
  - Young
  - Non-Hispanic
  - Male

Maybe...one source of data....
What we think we know

- We pay our EMS workforce
  - 36.5% Volunteer
- Every EMT is a paramedic
  - 62% EMT basics
  - Likely urban

Maybe we don’t know much...
IOM Recommendations

1. State governments adopt a common scope of practice
2. States accept national accreditation of paramedic education
3. States should require national certification

No Federal entities
Components of EMS education

NHTSA

- National EMS Core Content
- National EMS Scope of Practice Model
- National EMS Education Standard
  - National EMS Certification
  - National EMS Education Program Accreditation

50 States
Components of EMS education

- National EMS Core Content
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State acceptance
What we will know

- Who is in our workforce
- How large is our workforce
- Where do they work
- Do we have a shortage of workers
- How can we improve our workforce
IOM Recommendations

- American Board of Emergency Medicine should create a subspecialty certification in EMS

EMS is the practice of medicine out of hospital

Physician involvement is essential
An exemplary demonstration of a unique body of knowledge
High-Quality EMS Workforce

State Governments are the key

Federal funding of infrastructure is the secret