

Dr. Bonnie Zell
Senior Director, Population Health
National Quality Forum
601 13th Street NW
Suite 500 North
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Zell:

The Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) was established in 2005 by the Secretaries of Transportation, Health and Human Services and Homeland Security in response to SAFETEA-LU, Public Law 109-59 (42 USC 300d-4). FICEMS is statutorily charged with ensuring the coordination among the Federal agencies involved with State, local, tribal or regional emergency medical services and 9-1-1 systems, recommending new or expanded programs for improving emergency medical services, and with advising, consulting, and making recommendations on matters relating to the implementation of the coordinated State emergency medical services programs.

As you are aware, the National Quality Forum is currently engaged in a project focusing on regionalized emergency medical care services. As EMS is an essential part of the emergency medical care system, FICEMS fully supports this effort. Developing quality measures for emergency medical care has long been identified as a priority area for FICEMS.

I would like to offer the support of FICEMS in your efforts. FICEMS, and the FICEMS Technical Working Group, comprised of EMS subject matter experts within the Federal government, would like to offer our assistance as the NQF begins to develop and define a proposed framework for addressing measure gaps. Additionally, we hope that the EMS and 911 communities will be included as you begin to populate the steering committee that will provide guidance for the development of the framework.

We greatly appreciate the important work that NQF is undertaking in this project, and are hopeful that this effort will eventually foster consensus development projects that will lead to the endorsement of regionalized emergency care services performance measures.

I would be pleased to respond to your questions, or you may have your staff call Drew Dawson at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of EMS which provides administrative support for FICEMS. Drew can be reached at 202 366-9966 or drew.dawson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

David Strickland
Chair, FICEMS
Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
US Department of Transportation.