



Corporate Office: 71 Halifax Street Winslow, ME 04901; 207-877-0936 (p) 207-872-2753 (f)
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Atlantic Partners EMS Inc
January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, Contract Report to the Maine EMS Board
EMS Regions: Southern Maine (1), Kennebec Valley (3), Northeastern Maine (4), and Mid-Coast (6)

Status Update

The Executive Director for APEMS retired suddenly in early June and was replaced in the interim by Rick Petrie, EMT-P, the former Executive Director for APEMS. Since the former Executive Director is not available to us for consultation, this report is filed based on documents that we were able to find and discuss with APEMS staff, Medical Directors, and the other Regional Coordinators. Rick will remain in the position until a replacement can be found.

Regionwide Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Plan

The Regional Coordinators for Maine EMS Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 have worked collaboratively on Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Education. The program “Raising the Bar- Quality in EMS” has been built to be delivered through the Maine EMS MEMSEd program to allow easy access to all EMS providers throughout the State of Maine. Final edits are currently being made and release of the program is expected to be launched shortly.

A Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement survey was created by the Regional EMS Coordinators during FY2022 that asked EMS services to evaluate their QA/QI programs. A follow-up survey for FY2023 is in development, which will follow-up and expand on the results of the FY2022 survey. We are working towards a release date of March 2023.

January 1 – June 30 Update

The final edits to the program “Raising the Bar – Quality in EMS” were made and submitted to Maine EMS for development and production on the MEMSEd site. Joanne Lebrun, Regional Coordinator for TCEMS, is working on the final exam for the class.

The follow-up survey was completed and submitted to Maine EMS in March of 2023 for final approval. Once this approval is received, it will be distributed throughout the Regions.

Quality Assurance & Quality Improvement Support to Services- Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Indicators

Region 1 (Southern Maine)- We continue to work with Regional Medical Director Dr. Michael Bohanske in quality reviews of cardiac arrest management. We were also involved in various hospital or service-initiated requests for run reviews.

Region 3 (Kennebec Valley)- Dr Tim Pieh and Dr Kelly Meehan-Coussee continue their work in the No Treatment/No Transport calls, as well as cardiac arrest calls. Specific calls as requested by either services or hospitals are also reviewed.



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Region 4 (Northeastern Maine)- Our work with Dr. David Saquet continues in cardiac arrest management QA, as well as reviewing calls as requested by hospitals or services.

Region 6 (Mid-Coast)- Dr Benjy Lowry continues to review cardiac arrest calls and works with services and hospitals on specifically requested call reviews.

Call reviews in each of the regions presented educational opportunities in areas such as thoroughness of documentation, differential diagnoses, and protocol knowledge among others.

We continue to work with the services and the regional medical directors to utilize the tools, specifically reports, available to them the Maine EMS run reporting system (MEFIRS).

Regional QA meetings were held within the regional council advisory meetings. All service leadership, as well as all hospitals within the specified regions were invited to participate. We are working on increasing participation in these meetings, especially hospital participation in hopes of scheduling more standalone QA/QI meetings.

With the medical directors from the 4 regions, we will continue to develop additional Quality Assurance metrics. Building on the 100% review of cardiac arrest cases, we will be developing QA metrics for post-arrest return of spontaneous circulation care.

Understanding the liability of the No Treatment/No Transport call, we will be expanding this particular QA review. We will be working with service leadership as well as the regional and service level medical directors in each region to continue to develop and make this a robust process.

Each of the 4 regions continues to have representation on the Maine EMS Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee as below:

Region 1 (Southern Maine)- The Southern Maine Regional Advisory Council has recommended Brian Langerman to fill the vacancy left by Dan Masselli's resignation. The committee is currently in the interview process for this position.

Region 3 (Kennebec Valley)- Oliver Mackenzie

Region 4 (Northeastern Maine)- Rick Petrie

Region 6 (Mid-Coast)- Jon Powers

Each of the members works diligently within the Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee to improve patient care.

January 1 – June 30 Update

The Regional Medical Directors continue to review Cardiac Arrest calls and provide feedback to the EMS crews as appropriate. In addition, the APEMS Executive Director has been involved in specific QA follow-up as requested by the Regional or service Medical Director in each of the four regions administered by APEMS. In addition, APEMS was involved in the development and dissemination of an education program for post-arrest transport developed by Southern Maine Healthcare.

With the confirmation of Brian Langerman as the Southern Maine Representative to the QA/I committee, all four regions are now represented, and the appointed members are participating in the meetings as well as the development and review of the QA/I newsletters.



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Continuing Education

Continuing Education Programs were approved as below for the period of July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

- Region 1 (Southern Maine)- 283
- Region 2 (Kennebec Valley)- 97
- Region 4 (Northeastern Maine)- 210
- Region 6 (Mid-Coast)- 104

Atlantic Partners recognizes the importance of and continues to promote quality EMS education throughout the State of Maine. In addition to offering online and in-person continuing education classes, Atlantic Partners also held the Annual Mid-Coast EMS conference in November of 2022, for the first time since November of 2019. This educational opportunity was well received by both the presenters and the students.

January 1 – June 30 Update

Continuing Education Programs were approved as below for the period of January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023

- Region 1 (Southern Maine)- 320
- Region 2 (Kennebec Valley)- 115
- Region 4 (Northeastern Maine)- 207
- Region 6 (Mid-Coast)- 69

Attendance at Meetings

The Regional Coordinator attended the required meetings as below:

Maine EMS Board

- August 3, 2022- (was unable to attend in person- attended virtually)
- September 7, 2022
- October 5, 2022
- November 2, 2022
- December 7, 2022

Medical Direction & Practices Board

- July 20, 2022
- August 17, 2022
- September 21, 2022
- October 19, 2022
- November 16, 2022
- December 21, 2022



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Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee

July 20, 2022
September 21, 2022
November 16, 2022

Education Committee

July 13, 2022
September 14, 2022
October 12, 2022
December 14, 2022

January 1 – June 30 Update

Maine EMS Board

February 1, 2023 (Sally)
March 1, 2023 (Sally/Rick)
April 5, 2023 (Sally)
May 3, 2023 (Sally/Rick)
June 7, 2023 (Rick)

Medical Direction & Practices Board

February 15, 2023 (Sally, Rick)
March 15, 2023 (Sally/Rick)
April 19, 2023 (Sally/Rick)
May 17, 2023 (Rick)
June 21, 2023 (Rick)

Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee

January 18, 2023 (Sally/Rick)
February 15, 2023 (Sally)
March 15, 2023 (Sally/Rick)
April 19, 2022 (Rick)
May 18, 2023 (Rick)

Education Committee

January 11, 2023 (Sally)
February 8, 2023 (Sally)
March 8, 2023 (Sally)
April 12, 2023 (Sally)
May 14, 2022 (Sally)



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Regional Advisory Council Meetings

Regional Advisory Council meetings for each of the regions were held as below. During each of these meeting's topics included an update from Maine EMS from Maine EMS staff, Maine EMS Board members and/or the Regional Coordinator. In additions to updates from Maine EMS, topics discussed included staffing difficulties, challenges faced when moving patients via ambulance from hospitals to other destinations, diversion, changes in the Maine EMS rules as well as the Maine EMS Strategic Planning and the Blue-Ribbon Commission. Any pertinent EMS legislation was also presented at these meetings. EMS services and hospital representation were invited to each meeting in each region. We have made a change from a fully virtual meeting to a hybrid meeting format where members have the option of attending in-person or virtually.

Region 1 (Southern Maine)- August 24, 2022, September 28, 2022, November 23, 2022
Region 3 (Kennebec Valley)- September 15, 2022, December 15, 2022
Region 4 (Northeastern Maine)- September 14, 2022 & December 14, 2022
Region 6 (Mid-Coast)- September 28, 2022 (the regularly scheduled December meeting was held January 4, 2023 due to originally being scheduled for December 28, 2022, which was during the holiday week)

January 1 – June 30 Update

Region 1 (Southern Maine)- February 22, 2023; March 22, 2023; May 24, 2023
Region 3 (Kennebec Valley)- March 9, 2023; June 8, 2023
Region 4 (Northeastern Maine)- March 8, 2023; June 14, 2023
Region 6 (Mid-Coast)- March 22, 2023; June 28, 2023

EMS Service and Hospital Support and Communications

- When requested by Maine EMS staff, emails were sent to service leadership with Maine EMS activities, updates, and other pertinent information.
- Worked with the Maine EMS staff to provide communication and resources to services regarding the service level medical director requirements.
- Assisted Regional Medical Directors and services in obtaining service level medical directors.
- Provided services with Safety Plan information and assisted them with resources to complete one if requested.
- Kept EMS Providers apprised of the Maine EMS Strategic Planning process and encouraged participation.
- Continued to distribute information regarding COVID and other infectious diseases to EMS providers throughout the regions.
- Assisted services and hospitals on diversion issues.



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- Worked with EMS services and hospital pharmacies regarding any medication issues including medication shortages, changes in packaging, and medication requirements.
- Continued our work with CISM teams when requested by services or providers. We are also working with the Stress & Resiliency group created by Maine EMS to strengthen resources available to EMS providers in the state. We offered continuing education for CISM team members at the November conference and will be continuing to work with clinicians and other CISM personnel to offer more educational opportunities.
- Worked with Maine EMS staff and EMS services to promote the importance of the “Leave Behind Naloxone” program and encourage services to participate in the program.
- Encouraged EMS providers to participate in the 2023 protocol revisions, as well as attend the protocol update forums offered bi-monthly.

Mid-Coast RAC**Northeast RAC****Southern Maine RAC****January 1 – June 30 Update**

- APEMS was actively involved in advocacy for EMS agencies and the education of Maine Legislators to help get an unprecedented 31 million dollars for EMS agencies in Maine, as well as other legislation that will ensure another EMS Blue-Ribbon Commission, commercial insurer payment for no-transport calls, a study on reimbursement for Community Paramedicine, and waiver of Physician Certification requirements for certain calls.
- Continued communication on drug shortages and alternatives.
- Continued to advocate for the reinstatement of the representatives from the Southern Maine and Northeast Regions to the Maine EMS Board.
- Organized/Participated in 9 CISM debriefings.

The required financial report of Atlantic Partners EMS was submitted in December of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Petrie
Interim Executive Director, Atlantic Partners EMS