



Elevating EMS agencies
since 2011

2023 Quarter 4 Newsletter

EMS Around the State and Nation

- Montana is seeing a revitalization of EMS focused groups, including **MEMSA** and a Montana chapter of the **AAA** ([click here](#) to visit their site).
- An EMS Advisory Committee is being formed to advise Montana DPHHS on a wide range of EMS related topics. ([Click here](#) to learn more.)
- The **Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection** project is well underway. You've likely completed your reporting or your organization is actively working on this now. The information you gather for this project is valuable in many ways and can benefit your agency as you incorporate it into your planning and decision-making processes.
- VA (**Veterans' Administration**) is changing their payment methodology. This is unwelcome news as it will reduce the compensation that ambulance providers receive for transporting veterans. Beginning February 16, 2024, the VA will pay the lower of Medicare rates or billed charges for non-contracted ambulance providers. Currently they pay billable charges so the new rule represents a significant reduction.

We Are Growing!

If you haven't visited our website recently, please [take a look](#). We have welcomed several new team members this year, and they are working hard to provide excellent service to your ambulance agency. We would love to introduce you!



Forms & Systems Update:

- **Medicare's ABN** (Advanced Beneficiary Notice) form has been updated. Please confirm you have the current form available and remove any expired forms from your ambulance or document library. You can find the most current version [here](#).
- The **COVID Public Health Emergency** ended on May 11, 2023 and exceptions to certain Medicare rules expired on that date as well. Remember, this includes the expiration of the allowed use of the "Covid" signature form, and original requirements for patients or their representatives to sign are restored.
- **NEMSIS 3.5** standards have been adopted and the transition for each of our software vendors went relatively smoothly. Hopefully the enhancements available in this version will eventually make EMS data more accessible and contribute to the overall improvement of EMS delivery.

Check out these interesting articles!

1

[No Surprises Act](#)

2

[Hidden Fee Costings Doctors..](#)

3

["Ambulance Deserts"](#)



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"Save one life, you're a hero.
Save multiple lives, you're an EMT."



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