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Standard Guide for Providing System Evaluation for Emergency Medical Services¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Paragraph 10.1 was editorially revised in June 2004.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers providing system evaluation for emergency medical services (1),² including authority, responsibility, objectives, approaches, data, applications, and implementation.

NOTE 1—This guide does not address evaluation for individual prehospital, hospital, or posthospital providers. (Related guides will be developed.)

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

F1149 Practice for Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Authority of Individuals and Institutions Providing Medical Direction of Emergency Medical Services

F1177 Terminology Relating to Emergency Medical Services

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.1.1 *system evaluation*—a review of the performance of emergency medical services systems by qualified, experienced individuals.

3.1.2 *minimum data set*—the minimum number of data elements required for system evaluation.

3.2 *Definitions*—See Terminology **F1177**.

4. Significance of Use

4.1 This guide establishes system evaluation as an essential component of emergency medical services systems.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F30 on Emergency Medical Services and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F30.03 on Organization/Management.

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² The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the references at the end of this guide.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

4.2 This guide covers the methods and materials that are necessary to evaluate quality for emergency medical services systems at both the system operations and patient care levels.

5. Authority

5.1 The authority for providing system evaluation for emergency medical services rests with the entity that is ultimately legally responsible for system operation and evaluation.

6. Responsibility

6.1 The responsibility for providing system evaluation for emergency medical services systems rests with the directors of the entities specified in 5.1.

6.2 The responsibility for providing adequate financial resources and appropriate medical confidentiality for system evaluation for emergency medical services rests with the entities specified in 5.1.

6.3 Independent evaluation of individual parts of the emergency medical services system by prehospital, hospital, or posthospital providers must be integrated with and must not be substituted for system evaluation.

7. Objectives

7.1 System evaluation of quality for emergency medical services entails five objectives (2) including:

- 7.1.1 Setting priorities,
- 7.1.2 Assessing outcome,
- 7.1.3 Identifying problems,
- 7.1.4 Effecting changes, and
- 7.1.5 Reassessing outcome.

8. Approaches

8.1 System evaluation of quality entails approaches of structure, process, and outcome, singly or combined (3).

8.2 The approaches specified in 8.1 should be applied at both the system operations and patient care levels.

8.2.1 Applied at the system operations level (Table 1) these approaches provide a means of identifying issues that require further attention, including:

- 8.2.1.1 System operation, and