



## AIR AMBULANCE QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY (AAQPS)

Federal Advisory Committee Meeting 3

Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

Note: This Advisory Committee is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), P.L. 92-463 (Oct. 6, 1972), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

This is a public meeting that is being watched live by members of the public and is being recorded. By staying in this meeting, you are consenting to being recorded and for the transcript of this meeting to be posted publicly.

### Committee Purpose

The Advisory Committee will advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Transportation on options to establish quality, patient safety, and clinical capability standards for each clinical capability level of air ambulances. The Advisory Committee shall study and make recommendations, as appropriate, to Congress regarding the following with respect to air ambulance services:

1. Qualifications of different clinical capability levels and tiering of such levels.
2. Patient safety and quality standards.
3. Options for improving service reliability during poor weather, night conditions, or other adverse conditions.
4. Differences between air ambulance vehicle types, services, and technologies, and other flight capability standards, and the impact of such differences on patient safety.
5. Clinical triage criteria for air ambulances.

The recommendations will be collated into a report to Congress.

### Committee Structure

The Advisory Committee will hold three public meetings. In addition, there will be two subcommittees: a Flight Safety subcommittee and a Clinical Standards subcommittee. Each subcommittee will hold nonpublic meetings and report their recommendations to the main committee during the public meetings.

Meetings will be announced through the Federal Register and registration will be posted at:

<https://www.cms.gov/es/node/1974466>.

### Committee Members

**Chair:**

Jeff Richey, RN, MHA

**Members:**

William Hinckley, MD

Eileen Frazer, RN

Jason Clark

Mark Gamber, MD

Jordan Pritzker, MD

Commissioner Grace Arnold

Col. Steven Coffee

Ben Clayton

Jim Houser, MSN, APRN

Thomas Judge

Paul Julander

Jason Quisling

Robert Reckert

## Reference Documents

Please see the CMS Air Ambulance Quality and Patient Safety Committee website for reference and pre-reading materials here: <https://www.cms.gov/es/node/1974466>.

## Agenda: Third Full Committee Meeting

### **Overall Meeting Objectives:**

- Review the findings and clarification from the subcommittees on recommendations that were not resolved during the May 8 AAQPS Committee meeting.
- Hear from Committee members and other subject matter experts, as needed, to provide additional context around subcommittee recommendations.
- Come to consensus and vote on remaining subcommittee recommendations.

(See next page for agenda)

## Agenda: Third Full AAQPS Committee Meeting

All Times are EST		Introduction and Background	
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Welcome	David Wright (DFO)	
	Meeting objectives	Jeff Richey (Chair)	
	Recap of May 8 Meeting	Jeff Richey	
Flight Safety Subcommittee: Recommendation			
10:30 – 11:10 AM	Recommendation FS-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Background</li><li>Problem</li><li>Justification</li><li>Benefits and challenges</li></ul>	Jason Quisling	
	AAQPS discussion and questions	AAQPS Committee Members	
	AAQPS consensus and voting	Jeff Richey	
Flight Safety Subcommittee: Language Update and Review			
11:10 –11:30 AM	Language update, voting, and additional discussion	Jason Quisling  AAQPS Committee Members	
	Clinical Standards Subcommittee: Statutory Overview		
11:30 –11:45 AM	Overview of clinical standards recommendations and alignment to AAQPS statutory mandate	Kolby Kolbet  Keith McMinn	
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM Lunch			
Clinical Standards Subcommittee: AAPB Recommendations			
12:45 – 2:30 PM	Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Background</li><li>Problem</li><li>Justification</li><li>Benefits and challenges</li></ul>	Kolby Kolbet  Keith McMinn	
	AAQPS discussion and questions	AAQPS Committee Members	
	AAQPS consensus and voting	Jeff Richey	
2:30 – 2:40 PM Break			

Clinical Standards Subcommittee: Recommendation		
2:40 – 3:40 PM	<b>Recommendation CS-1B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Background</li><li>• Problem</li><li>• Justification</li><li>• Benefits and challenges</li></ul>	Kolby Kolbet  Keith McMinn
	<b>AAQPS discussion and questions</b>	AAQPS Committee Members
	<b>AAQPS consensus and voting</b>	Jeff Richey
3:40 – 4:10 PM	<b>Recap of recommendations and additional discussion</b>	Jeff Richey
4:10 – 4:20 PM <b>Break</b>		
<b>Public Comments</b>		
4:20 – 4:30 PM		Public
<b>Closing</b>		
4:30 – 5:00 PM	<b>Final Reflections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee final reflections</li><li>• Next steps for the Report to Congress</li><li>• Email/procedure for providing additional comments</li></ul>	Jeff Richey