



AIR AMBULANCE QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY (AAQPS)

Federal Advisory Committee Meeting 2

Meeting Date: May 8, 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: Second Full Committee Meeting

Overall Meeting Objectives:

- Review the findings of the subcommittees on each topic area, including problem statements and recommendations.
- Hear from Committee members and other subject matter experts, as needed, to provide additional context around subcommittee recommendations.
- Come to consensus and vote on subcommittee recommendations.
- Discuss gaps in subcommittee recommendations.

(See next page for agenda)

Agenda: Second Full AAQPS Committee Meeting

Introduction and Background		
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Welcome	David Wright (DFO)
	AAQPS Committee Goals	Jeff Richey (Chair)
	Patient Experience	Col. Coffee
	Report to Congress Overview	Jeff Richey and David Wright
	Introduction of Subcommittees, Subcommittee Chairs, and the Presentation of Subcommittee Recommendations	Jeff Richey Jason Quisling Kolby Kolbet Keith McMinn
Clinical Standards Subcommittee: Recommendations		
10:30 AM – 12:10 PM	Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem• Justification• Benefits and challenges	Kolby Kolbet Keith McMinn
	AAQPS discussion and questions	AAQPS Committee Members
	AAQPS consensus and voting	Jeff Richey
12:10 – 1:00 PM	Lunch	
Clinical Standards Subcommittee: Additional Recommendations and Review		
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem• Justification• Benefits and challenges	Kolby Kolbet Keith McMinn
	AAQPS discussion and questions	AAQPS Committee Members
	AAQPS consensus and voting	Jeff Richey
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Recap of recommendations and additional discussion	Jeff Richey
2:00 – 2:10 PM	Break	
Flight Safety Subcommittee: Recommendations		

2:10 – 3:30 PM	Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem• Justification• Benefits and challenges	Jason Quisling Nolan Crawford
	AAQPS discussion and questions	AAQPS Committee Members
	AAQPS consensus and voting	Jeff Richey
	Flight Safety Subcommittee: Additional Recommendations and Review	
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem• Justification• Benefits and challenges	Jason Quisling Nolan Crawford
	AAQPS discussion and questions	AAQPS Committee Members
	AAQPS consensus and voting	Jeff Richey
4:00 – 4:20 PM	Recap of recommendations and additional discussion	Jeff Richey
4:20 – 4:30 PM Break		
Public Comments		
4:30 – 4:45 PM		Public
Closing		
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Final Reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee final reflections• Recommendations for future discussion topics• Future meeting date and agenda• Email/procedure for providing additional comments	Jeff Richey