



Community Health Emergency Medical Services (CHEMS)

Community Health Emergency Medical Services (CHEMS) is an innovative model where emergency medical services (EMS) personnel are incorporated into the general healthcare delivery system and extend the reach of primary care into a patient's environment. CHEMS personnel are healthcare providers who receive additional education, work within a medical-health neighborhood, and assist the primary care team to implement a patient care plan. CHEMS personnel operate within their current scope of practice, however, act in an expanded role within the medical-health neighborhood. Examples of the roles of CHEMS personnel may include:

- Healthcare system navigators for patients
- Transitional care for patients after they are discharged from a hospital stay
- Vaccinations
- Medication inventories
- Resource coordination
- Basic medical therapeutics

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency Unique Characteristics/Talking Points:

(No Specific Order)

- EMS providers **deliver care** typically in a non-clinical setting, often in patient's home environment.
- EMS providers can **communicate** via radio, phone, imaging, etc., to relay findings to medical control, physicians, and nurses within hospital systems.
- EMS providers already have the capacity to **function within interdisciplinary teams** such as: dispatch, law enforcement, healthcare providers, patient families, ER doctors and nurses, community volunteers, caregivers, and neighbors.
- The EMS system can prove the **access point into the healthcare system** does not always start at the emergency department but can begin when EMS personnel arrive on scene.
- EMS personnel **extend the reach of patient care** beyond the emergency department giving them a unique perspective on why patients initially access the healthcare system.

Community Health EMS (CHEMS) Talking Points:

(No Specific Order)

- By utilizing CHEMS, the reach of primary care can be extended in a variety of ways, such as:
 - Acting as healthcare navigators for patients
 - Providing transitional care for patients after hospital discharge
 - Administering vaccinations
 - Conducting medication inventories
 - Providing resource and care coordination
 - Administering basic medical therapeutics

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- Collection of data is essential to the funding and sustainability of CHEMS. Data should prove:
 - Value
 - Better patient outcomes
 - Economic impact
- CHEMS is a component of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model which supports comprehensive, team-based, coordinated, accessible, safe, and focused primary care.
- CHEMS teams assist in implementing a patient care plan in a proactive vs. reactive manner.
- CHEMS can identify barriers to implementation with the goal to empower patients to independently manage their medical conditions.
- CHEMS promotes and utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to increasing access to healthcare.
- CHEMS programs use established Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems, additional providers, and appropriate resources.
- CHEMS teams can actively identify patients who call 911 frequently that may benefit from CHEMS.
- Additional education is available to CHEMS providers to enhance and streamline the healthcare delivery model.
- A community health needs assessment can assist in the identification of specific issues and challenges within the community.
- CHEMS services are not considered home health and do not replace home health services.

Open Ended Questions:

(Specific Order)

1. Related to the delivery of healthcare in your community, if you could fix one thing, what would it be?
2. What do you see as your greatest needs or challenges in reaching the healthcare outcomes you are looking to achieve?
3. Do you believe this concept/provider could be used within your organization's healthcare delivery model – if so, do have some initial thoughts on how?
4. Do you have any initial reservations to this concept? If so, what are they?
5. What pieces of information/items of interest do you feel might be missing from this concept right now?

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6. Would you be interested in partnering with us to further develop this program?

Web Based Links - Supportive Information:

Statewide Healthcare Innovation Plan: <http://ship.idaho.gov/>

Idaho EMSP Bureau CEMS:

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Medical/EmergencyMedicalServicesHome/CommitteesandWorkingGroups/CommunityHealthEMS/tabid/2179/Default.aspx>

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