

## STATES Requiring CAMTS Accreditation Position Statement on the

## **Use of CAMTS Accreditation Standards as State Minimum Standards**

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS), begun in 1990, serves as a voluntary standard writing and verification organization. The Commission comprises representatives from twenty-one different member organizations, with one representative from each of the member organizations sitting on the CAMTS Board of Directors. The Board, with input from each of its member organizations and two ad hoc members, establishes standards required and recommended for those medical transport systems wishing to receive accreditation.

The goal of CAMTS is to provide standards that reflect a high quality, safe and stable medical transport service. Through an extensive application process, including an on-site verification using trained and skilled site surveyors, the program can receive acknowledgement as "CAMTS Accredited." Accredited systems must be in substantial compliance (not necessarily total), as determined by the Board of Directors in a blinded review of the application and survey reports.

The Board encourages and believes that all medical transport systems should meet the CAMTS Accreditation Standards. However, the CAMTS Standards are by no means minimal standards for a safe and quality program. Instead, they represent a standard that exceeds those minimums and are deserving of a higher recognition.

The use of CAMTS Standards as minimum standards for a State can be problematic. Because the CAMTS Standards are written to apply to medical transport systems worldwide, they may not address the unique needs or characteristics of the local region or state. Additionally, to verify consistency and a track record in quality service, CAMTS requires a minimum of one year of performance and documentation before applications can be processed for full accreditation. This may prohibit new services starting in States that require CAMTS Accreditation. CAMTS Standards are also updated approximately every two years, which may place them in conflict over time with State regulations and/or philosophies.

States should determine the minimum standards for its jurisdiction. The CAMTS Standards, as well as standards from other organizations, can and should be used for reference. CAMTS does not encourage or support States CAMTS accreditation for State licensing. CAMTS does, however, encourage and recommend that States provide "deemed status" for those services that have documented their commitment to maintaining quality service by completing and obtaining CAMTS accreditation. Should a State choose to use CAMTS accreditation as the minimum for licensing, there needs to be a State supported license alternative for those services that wish not to use or are not eligible to use CAMTS.