



Special Issue on
**Advancing Teamwork through Human Factors and
Systems Engineering Research to Improve Quality
and Resilience in EMS**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Prehospital medicine (also known as Emergency Medical Services [EMS] or out-of-hospital medicine) involves the safe care and transport of patients. Unlike inpatient settings, prehospital environments are often constrained spatially, isolated, dimly lit, diverse, and volatile, and crews must act autonomously to treat acutely ill patients with little medical history and undifferentiated diagnoses. Moreover, the task urgency, atypical shifts, limited and ambiguous information, drug shortages, and variable environmental conditions compound the complexity and difficulty of care. Despite these aforementioned challenges, the importance of prehospital medicine is evidenced by EMS providers caring for millions of patients annually. The frequency of care and the challenging conditions present plentiful opportunities for potential error. Notwithstanding the prevalence of care and the conditions conducive for errors, there is a dearth of research within prehospital medicine.

One mechanism for potentially mitigating error, enhancing patient safety, and rife with research opportunity is teamwork. Although the prevailing educational theme was individual competence, the conceptualization of the lone provider is inadequate as quality care is contingent upon an effective team and even multiteam system (MTS). We invite original research articles as well as review and conceptual articles that will increase the understanding of teams, teamwork, and MTSs within prehospital medicine.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Models that advance what is known regarding the conceptions and relationships of teamwork, teams, and MTSs unique to prehospital medicine
- ▶ Applications of telemedicine used to promote teamwork within MTSs
- ▶ Interventions targeting the betterment of providing quality care within teams and MTSs
- ▶ Devices, tools, and technologies to increase the efficiency and/or safety of EMS providers and their patients
- ▶ Validated metrics that can be used to assess or survey providers and patients in both live and simulated settings
- ▶ Simulation-based training systems or evaluation techniques deployed within EMS units
- ▶ Research on high reliability teams and resilience engineering within EMS
- ▶ Evaluation of the prevailing organizational culture and its effect on teamwork in EMS
- ▶ Teamwork during normal operations versus mass casualty and disaster situations
- ▶ Teaching, measuring, and improving teamwork skills
- ▶ Effective or ineffective teamwork effects on clinical decision making, mental models, and/or patient outcomes

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First Round of Reviews

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