

2025 PEMS Special Recognition Award - VA Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup

VACo was recently recognized for [its work](#) on the Virginia Regional EMS Medication Workgroup, as discussed in the award notice below.

“For more than four decades a majority of the Commonwealth’s EMS agencies received their medications through hospital stocked regional EMS Medication kits exchanged one-for-one when an agency delivered their patient to a hospital emergency department. While the Commonwealth of Virginia had been forecasting the demise of this system since the passage of the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act by Congress in 2017.

In October of 2023 as an EMS community, we learned that the FDA had passed regulations created by the Drug Supply Chain Security Act that was going to force the transition much sooner than expected. Faced with a little more than a year to complete the transition, a deadline that was ultimately extended another five months, the Regional Councils began working with stakeholders’ groups, agencies and organizations throughout the Commonwealth and subject matter experts to develop a coalition to work on resolving the problem and to provide the Statewide EMS system with information, tools and guidance.

For the last eighteen months, the Virginia Regional EMS Medication Workgroup comprised of 14 agencies and organizations and 54 individuals helped the Board of Pharmacy develop new EMS informed emergency regulations as well as final regulations. These individuals staffed tool teams for Controlled Substance Registration and DEA licensure, Policies and Procedures, Purchasing, Financial Assistance and DEQ and Pharmaceutical Waste, created educational workshops for EMS agencies, and acted as subject matter experts to provide guidance in their use. The workgroup was supported by dozens of individuals and agencies who also shared their time and expertise which resulted in meeting the April 15, 2025, deadline that had been established. Almost all of the over 500 EMS agencies in the Commonwealth successfully transitioned from hospital stocked regional EMS medication kits to agency stocked kits, a monumental feat.”



From Left to Right - Michael D. Berg, EMS Systems Funding, Virginia Department of Health; Jeremy R. Bennett, VACo Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; and JC Bolling, State EMS Advisory Board, Southwest Virginia EMS Council, Vice Chair.

