National Special Pathogen System (NSPS)

NATIONAL EMERGING SPECIAL PATHOGENS TRAINING & EDUCATION CENTER (NETEC), NSPS COORDINATING BODY

January 2024
Guiding Principles of the NSPS

MISSION
To provide a coordinated and standardized health care network of high-quality, patient- and community-centered care for patients suspected of, or infected by, a special pathogen in the United States, while protecting the health workforce.

VISION
To save lives through a sustained, standardized special pathogen system of care that enables health care personnel and administrators to provide agile and high-quality care across the care delivery continuum.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS
Our vision can be illustrated through aspirational success measures, which include:

- Zero preventable deaths after special pathogen infection
- A mobilized network within two hours of a suspected special pathogen
- Access to high-quality special pathogen care for 100% of the U.S. population
NETEC & NSPS Leadership

NETEC TODAY
Sets the gold standard for special pathogen preparedness and response across health systems in the United States

THE NSPS TOMORROW
Will transform the health care readiness ecosystem by expanding NETEC’s foundational services and building out a national system of care

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Evolution of NETEC & the NSPS

- **ASPR establishes the Regional Ebola Treatment Network (RETN)** to help health care respond to the Ebola outbreak, designating 10 RESPTCs and creating NETEC

- **The WHO declares the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency**

- **COVID-19 pandemic requires nationwide response**
  - APR expands the RETN to include other special pathogens, including COVID-19, positioning it to become the future National Special Pathogen System (NSPS)

- **ASPR asks NETEC to develop the NSPS Strategy** to evolve and scale the existing network to meet the continued challenges of responding to large-scale special pathogens outbreaks

- **Congress designates NETEC to serve as the Coordinating Body for the NSPS**
  - APR awards $21 million to the RESPTCs, increasing the number of designated facilities from 10 to 13, to advance health care system preparedness for special pathogens in their regions

**NSPS FUNDING RECIPIENTS AND SUB-RECIPIENTS OVER TIME**

- **53** Hospital Associations*
- **62** Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Recipients*
- **55** Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (SPTCs)**
- **13** Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs)

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*No new Appropriations received since FY 2022  **No new Appropriations received since FY 2020
As the Coordinating Body of the NSPS, NETEC supports and operationalizes the NSPS System of Care and maintains connectivity with the broader NSPS in a decision making and advisory capacity.

NSPS SYSTEM OF CARE

LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 4

Provides care via a tiered health care system ranging from highly specialized care facilities to those focused on identification of suspect cases and coordination and movement within the network.

NSPS FUNCTIONS
To serve patients and communities

- Standards & Guidance
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Research & Data
- Patient Medical Transport & Care Delivery
- Communication & Coordination
- Workforce & Training
- Funding & Equity

NETEC
NETEC Today

NETEC SERVES AS THE COORDINATING BODY OF THE NSPS

H.R.2617 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 “directs NETEC to serve as the NSPS coordinating body... [responsible for] establishing a robust NSPS and integrating NSPS with other health care delivery systems of care for emergencies, such as the trauma system.”

MISSION

NETEC’s mission is to set the gold standard for special pathogen preparedness and response across health systems in the U.S. with the goals of driving best practices, closing knowledge gaps, and developing innovative resources.

VISION

Our vision is a sustainable infrastructure and culture of readiness for managing suspected and confirmed special pathogen incidents across the U.S. public health and health care delivery systems.

PRODUCTS, SERVICES, AND RESOURCES

CONSULTATION & ASSESSMENT

We help health care facilities and EMS agencies prepare for special pathogen events with free virtual and onsite readiness consulting and program assessments.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

We offer courses and training for nurses, physicians, emergency responders, and other health care professionals, equipping them with preparedness best practices.

SPECIAL PATHOGENS RESEARCH NETWORK (SPRN)

The Special Pathogens Research Network (SPRN) provides researchers with training, tools, and resources to quickly understand clinical syndromes and study effective treatments and clinical management strategies.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS

International Partnerships and Programs (IPP) was established to organize, plan, and implement strategic international collaborations to advance U.S. and global special pathogens preparedness.

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Future Expansion of NETEC Services

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY, & OVERSIGHT
Set strategic priorities; determine how roles, decision rights, and accountability are assigned, controlled, and coordinated; hold those involved accountable

COMMUNICATION & COORDINATION
- Pave bi-directional communication channels across NSPS
- Develop and maintain partnerships
- Communicate recommendations to Congress

STANDARDS & GUIDANCE
- Provide and distribute standards and resources to the System of Care
- Shape standards and guidance based on input from relevant partners

TRAINING & EDUCATION
- Develop training standards and resources
- Set workforce training standards for the System of Care by level
- Work with Level 1 facilities to support needs at the regional level

NETEC COORDINATING BODY CORE SERVICES

MONITORING & EVALUATION
- Support potential certification and monitor facilities
- Evaluate system readiness, response, and recovery
- Monitor how the system upholds the NSPS strategy

DATA & TECHNOLOGY
- Design solutions, agreements, governance, and protocols for data sharing
- Leverage resources to monitor and identify possible risks and anticipate how changes may disrupt supply chain

RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE SHARING
- Support new research efforts across care delivery sites
- Serve as a scientific body to vet and disseminate research

FUNDING
- Support coordination of funding for NSPS facilities
- Support resource requests for emergency funding

EQUITY
- Ensure equitable distribution of resources and care delivery throughout
- Prioritize care delivery access for underserved populations and areas

Coordinating Body Enabling Functions
System of Care Levels Overview

To align more closely with the Trauma system, the NSPS will be organized by Levels and descriptors for the System of Care facilities.

LEVEL 4 – All Other Healthcare Facilities
Level 4 facilities can identify, isolate, inform, & initiate stabilizing medical care; protect staff; and arrange timely patient transport to minimize impact to normal facility operations.

LEVEL 3 – Assessment Centers
Level 3 facilities are widely accessible care delivery facilities, able to conduct limited basic laboratory testing and stabilize and coordinate rapid patient transfer to minimize impact to normal facility operations.

LEVEL 2 – Special Pathogen Treatment Centers or SPTCs
Level 2 facilities have the capacity to deliver specialized care to clusters of patients suspected of or infected by a special pathogen and serve as the primary patient care delivery center.

LEVEL 1 – Regional Treatment Centers or RESPTCs
Level 1 facilities will serve as resource hubs for regions, providing highly specialized care delivery to patients suspected of or infected by a special pathogen.
Questions?

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