NAEC Annual Meeting

December 5, 2022

Agenda

1. Welcome and 2022 Update – Sue Herman, MD
   - NAEC Operations Update
   - 2022 Activities and Accomplishments
2. Outlook and Activities for 2023 – Fred Lado, MD, PhD
   - NAEC Leadership
   - Accreditation Changes for 2023/2024
   - Epilepsy Center Guidelines Update
3. NAEC Pilot Program – Kate Davis, MD and Adam Ostendorf, MD

2022 NAEC Update

Susan Herman, MD

NAEC Outgoing President
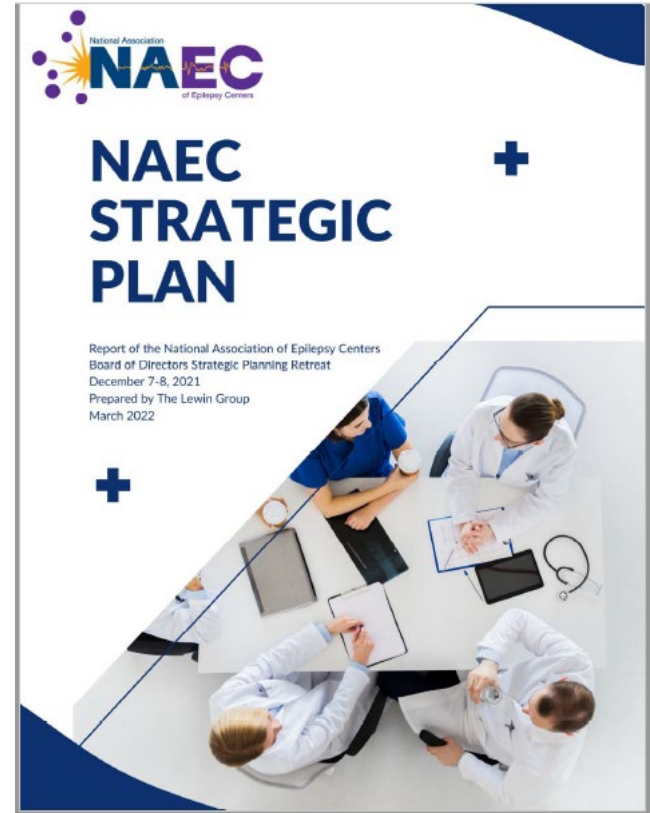
NAEC Epilepsy Center Accreditation

Center Demographic				
	Adult	Adult/Pediatric	Pediatric	Total
Level 4	74	77	47	198
Level 3	44	13	4	61
Total	118	90	51	259

NAEC Centers Accredited by Year							
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Level 4	198	197	199	192	188	181	184
Level 3	61	62	57	54	52	52	41
Total	259	259	256	246	240	233	225

Strategic Planning

- NAEC Board met in December 2021 to begin strategic planning process for 2022-2027
  - Reviewing/revising pillars and activities
  - Addressing health disparities
  - Responding to broader health care system changes
  - What's NAEC's role in and responsibility to broader epilepsy community – patients, sister organizations, research enterprise, etc?

Strategic Planning Results

Table 1. Vision, Mission, and Core Pillars

Vision: Assuring quality epilepsy care by supporting strong specialized epilepsy centers.

Mission: NAEC supports epilepsy centers in delivering quality comprehensive care to people with epilepsy, by setting standards of care, advocating for access to high quality epilepsy center services, providing knowledge and resources to its member centers, and collaborating with and otherwise serving the epilepsy community.

Standard Setting	Advocacy	Member Center Support	Community
NAEC will define continuously improving standards for epilepsy centers to ensure the highest quality care.	NAEC will ensure the current and future role, value, and viability of epilepsy centers.	NAEC will be the comprehensive resource for the organization and administration of epilepsy centers.	NAEC will collaborate with the epilepsy community to improve access to centers and resources.

2022 Activities and Accomplishments

Standard Setting

Advocacy

Member Center Support

Community

Assuring quality epilepsy care by supporting strong specialized epilepsy centers

National Association **NAEC** of Epilepsy Centers

2022 Activities: Standard Setting

- Completed the 2022 Accreditation Process

- Updated Criteria and Process for 2023 and 2024

- Epilepsy Center Guidelines under development

2022 Activities: Standard Setting

- ASET/NAEC training module for Neurodiagnostic Assistants (monitor watchers)/no cost for NAEC members launched March 2021.
    - 668 enrolled/469 completed

- AANN/NAEC on Epilepsy Center inpatient and outpatient modules for epilepsy certification – launched Nov 2021.
    - 233 completed/111 in process
    - 15 facilities with institutional programs

2022 Activities: Advocacy

- Worked with ACNS and AAN to remove CMS national coverage decision on ambulatory EEG

- Analysis and comments on Medicare regulations

- Signed letters to Congress on prior authorization relief.

2022 Activities: Member Center Support

- Establishment of Work Groups
  - Epilepsy Center Tools and Resources
  - Marketing and Improving Access to Underserved
  - Outcome Measures/Data Collection
- Webinars
  - CDC's Managing Epilepsy Well Programs
  - NAEC 2022 Accreditation and Trends Data
- Responded to questions from members on accreditation, coding, reimbursement, insurance coverage policies

Publications of NAEC Data

- United States Epilepsy Center Characteristics: An Analysis of Data From the National Association of Epilepsy Centers

- Impact of the COVID-19 Epidemic on Epilepsy Center Practice in the United States

- Epilepsy Center Characteristics and Geographic Region Influence Presurgical Testing in the United States

- Association Between Characteristics of National Association of Epilepsy Centers and Reported Utilization of Specific Surgical Techniques

- NAEC Center Director Study Group

2022 Activities: Community

- Work with AES, ACNS, AAN, CNF, CNS on advocacy, guidelines, and other issues

- Leadership roles in Epilepsy Leadership Council review of IOM report, actions to date, priorities moving forward

Thank You to 2022 NAEC Volunteers!

Accreditation Committee
Meriem Bensalem-Owen, MD – Chair
Christi Heck, MD
Ammar Kheder, MD
Megan Selvitelli, MD
John Stern, MD

Finance Committee
Ahmed Abdelmoity, MD – Chair
Fred Lado, MD, PhD
Emily Klatte, MD

Nominations Committee
Stephan Schuele, MD, PhD – Chair
Kate Davis, MD
Ammar Kheder, MD

Guidelines Panel
Susan Arnold, MD – Co-Chair
Fred Lado, MD, PhD – Co-Chair

Guidelines Oversight Committee
Christi Heck, MD – Co-Chair
David Labiner, MD – Co-Chair
Stephan Schuele, MD, PhD
Kevin Chapman, MD
Lara Jehi, MD

Survey Work Group
Stephanie Ahrens, DO
Anto Bagic, MD, PhD
Kevin Chapman, MD
Nathan Fountain, MD
Jay Gavvala, MD
Adam Ostendorf, MD
Kyle Rossi, MD

National Association
NAEC
of Epilepsy Centers

Thank you to 2022 NAEC Volunteers!

Tools and Resources Work Group
Ahmed Abdelmoity, MD, Chair
Meriem Bensalem-Owen, MD
Liu Thio, MD
Sima Patel, MD
Stephan Schuele, MD, PhD
Dan Weber, DO

Data Collection Work Group
Kate Davis, MD, Chair
Sue Herman, MD
Lawrence Hirsch, MD
Adam Ostendorf, MD
John Pollard, MD
John Rolston, MD
Stephan Schuele, MD, PhD

Center Marketing Work Group
Dave Clarke, MD, – Chair
Gabrielle Conecker
Fred Lado, MD
Suchetta Joshi, MD
Emily Klatte, MD
Sandi Lam, MD

NAEC Coding Session and Webinar Speakers
Stephanie Ahrens, DO
Greg Barkley, MD
Jonathan Edwards, MD
Sue Herman, MD
Marc Nuwer, MD
Adam Ostendorf, MD
Stephan Schuele, MD, PhD

Thank You to NAEC Staff!

- Ellen Riker, Executive Director
- Johanna Gray, Deputy Director
- Barbara Small, Programs Manager

Outlook and Activities for 2023

Fred Lado, MD, PhD

NAEC President

NAEC Board for 2023

President	**Fred Lado, MD, PhD** Hofstra Northwell Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
Vice President	**Stephan Schuele, MD, MPH** Northwestern Medicine Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
Secretary/ Treasurer	**David Clarke, MD** Dell Children's Medical Center
At-large	**Ahmed Abdelmoity, MD** Children's Mercy Epilepsy Center
At-large	**Kathryn Davis, MD** University of Pennsylvania
At-large	**Jennifer Hopp, MD** University of Maryland
At-large	**Mohamad Koubeissi, MD** George Washington University
Past President	**Susan Herman, MD** Barrow Neurological Institute

Outgoing Board Member

Nathan Fountain, MD

F.E. Dreifuss Comprehensive Epilepsy Program

NAEC Past President

Thank you!

Susan Herman, MD

Barrow Neurological Institute

NAEC Past President

2023 Activities

Standard Setting	Advocacy	Member Center Support	Community
• 2023 accreditation cycle and 2024 updates • Complete NAEC's Guidelines • NAEC Data Pilot Project	• Explore coding options • Advocacy with private insurers • Analysis and advocacy re: Medicare Rules	• Enhance Center Resources – business plan webinars and toolkit • Update NAEC website to make more user friendly	• Collaborations with AAN, AES, ELC, EF, ACNS, etc • Develop strategies to address disparities in access to epilepsy centers

Assuring quality epilepsy care by supporting strong specialized epilepsy centers

National Association
NAEC
of Epilepsy Centers

NAEC Accreditation Updates

2023 Accreditation Updates

- **Core Criteria:** After being postponed for several years due to COVID-19, starting in 2023 all centers must meet core criteria.

- Core criteria are required annually with no exception or flexibility; **centers with deficiencies in core criteria will not be accredited (rather than receiving conditional accreditation).**

Core Criteria - 2023

- **Medical Director:** The Medical Director must have at least one of the following board certifications: ABPN epilepsy, ABPN clinical neurophysiology, ABCN clinical neurophysiology, or ABCN epilepsy monitoring.
- **One Pediatric Epilepsy Specialist for Pediatric and Adult/Pediatric Centers:** Requirement for a board-certified pediatric epileptologist, who has ABPN Child Neurology board certification in addition to at least one of the following board certifications: ABPN epilepsy, ABPN clinical neurophysiology, ABCN clinical neurophysiology, or ABCN epilepsy monitoring.
- **Active Presence of Epilepsy Specialist Neurosurgeon for Level 4 Centers:** Requirement for at least one neurosurgeon who has ABNS board-certification or equivalent or is "board-eligible and tracking toward ABNS certification" with special expertise in epilepsy.

Core Criteria 2023, cont'd

- **Presence of an EMU meeting specific criteria:** The EMU criteria implemented in 2022 are now core criteria, so all centers must have an EMU with:
    - Designated hospital beds where video and EEG data is captured and sent to a central location
    - Remote-control video cameras with 24/7 recording available (not a fixed camera)
    - Trained personnel (in seizure recognition and recording integrity) dedicated 24/7 to only monitoring video and EEG. (Not necessarily required to be traditional EEG technologist)
    - EMU safety-trained inpatient nurses
    - Epilepsy-specific staff training and protocols for seizure safety
    - Clinical decision-making by an epileptologist

2023 Accreditation Updates

- **Referral Relationships Between Level 3 and 4 Centers:** Level 3 Centers going through the full accreditation process must upload proof of adult and pediatric patient referrals depending on the demographic served by the center. Adult/pediatric centers must provide proof of referrals for both adult and pediatric patients.

- **Outpatient Services:** All centers must provide specialized outpatient epilepsy care. This will be implemented via questions in the Center Annual Report.

2023 Accreditation Updates

- **EMU Policy Standards:** NAEC will assess whether the EMU policy document includes certain elements (checklist included in materials)

- **AANN/NAEC Nursing Requirement:** As announced last year, each center must have at least one nurse who has completed the AANN/NAEC training module

National Association NAEC of Epilepsy Centers

2023 Accreditation Timeline

- **November 16, 2022:** NAEC 2023 accreditation process began; Instructions distributed.
- **January 31, 2023:** Deadline to pay dues, complete the Center Annual Report, upload required documents to Box.com, and complete the supplemental survey.
- **February 1-15, 2023:** Review and Revise Period: NAEC staff will review your center's submission for completion and let you know if anything is missing.
- **March 1, 2023:** Final deadline for any revisions or additions. **We cannot accept dues or materials after this date.**

National Association
NAEC
of Epilepsy Centers

2023 Accreditation Webinar

- NAEC will hold a webinar on the 2023 accreditation process, criteria and timeline in January.

- Please share with your administrators/staff who help with process!

2024/2025 Accreditation Changes

- New criteria to take effect in your center's next full accreditation year:
    - Separate Accreditation for Adult and Pediatric Centers
    - New Core Criterion: Pediatric centers must submit a VEEG report for a patient under age 2

Separating Adult/Ped Centers

- All adult/pediatric centers must separate or choose to be either an adult or pediatric center.
  - If the center separates into adult and pediatric centers:
    - Each center will need to meet all criteria for its desired level independently,
    - each will complete the full accreditation process and would be listed separately in NAEC's member directory.
  - Centers can apply for different levels for its ped and adult centers.

Update on NAEC Guidelines Process

- In 2020, NAEC Board explored options for updating its published epilepsy center guidelines.
- In 2021, NAEC Board approved and initiated guidelines following "evidence-informed, consensus-based process" using a Delphi approach.
  - Hired Consultant
  - Created Oversight Committee to govern process
  - Sought applications from community to serve on panel.

Guideline Panel

Epileptologists*, **	17
People with Epilepsy (PWE) and Caregivers*	6
Neurosurgeon	4
EEG Technologists	4
Neuropsychologist	2
Neuroradiologist	2
Epilepsy Nurse Specialist	2
Pediatric Neurologist	1
Neuropsychiatrist	1
Epilepsy APP	1
Patient Educator	1
Center Administrator	1
PANEL TOTAL	43

* 1 level 4 ped epileptologist is also a person with epilepsy

** 9 Epileptologists are APBN Board Certified in Child Neurology, 2 are from level 3 centers

Panel Co-Chairs:
Susan Arnold, MD
Fred Lado, MD, PhD

Panelist names kept confidential until Guideline is complete

Update on NAEC Guidelines Process - 2022

- Training of panel participants
- Developed list of potential recommendation topics (services, personnel, infrastructure, protocols), including call for input from NAEC members and sister organizations
- Literature review and evidence extraction related to potential topics
- Establishment of work groups to draft recommendations

Update on NAEC Guideline Process - 2023 and Beyond

- Multiple virtual meetings in 2022/2023 to draft recommendations

- Modified Delphi process to finalize recommendations

- Draft manuscript with anticipated submission date for publication in 3rd quarter 2023

- Impact on accreditation likely no sooner than 2024/2025.

Questions?

NAEC Data Collection Pilot

NAEC Data Collection Work Group

- Kate Davis (Chair)
- Adam Ostendorf
- Larry Hirsch
- Sue Herman
- Stephan Schuele
- John Rolston
- John Pollard (Level III Center)

Current State

- Annual NAEC Center report
  - Group level data collected (e.g. number of intracranial studies)
  - Centers are not required to collect outcome or complication data

Future State

- Expectation that Level III/IV Centers are collecting data regarding patient-specific outcomes, complications

- Engage in center-specific quality improvement

- Obtain more rigorous national data regarding patients (e.g. age, syndrome), surgery types and outcomes

- Enable individual centers to compare themselves to national data/standards

3-Year Data Collection Pilot

- Recruit at least ~10 Level IV and ~5 Level III NAEC accredited centers to participate
  - Regional representation
  - Variation of center sizes
  - Pediatric and Adult representation

- Voluntary participation

Benefits

- Participating centers will be acknowledged on the NAEC website

- Data collection instrument with patient-level data submitted in lieu of completing the associated portions of the prior data collection instrument (group level surgical data)

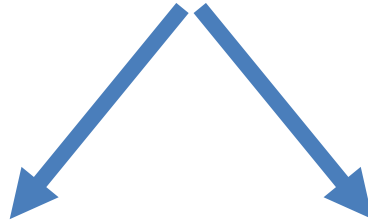- Provides a method to internally track surgical patients at each center

Participating Centers

- Provide feedback on the data collected and data collection instrument

- Provide input on governance (e.g. publication rules, data access)

- Center-specific data will not be published or shared

Launch – 2 options

Start w/ 2023 Accreditation

- Centers can choose to use the new patient-specific data collection instrument for 1/31/2023
- Includes patient surgical/device data but no outcomes
- 1-year outcome data for 2023 surgeries submitted 1/31/2024

Start w/ 2024 Accreditation

- Centers can choose to prospectively start using the new patient-specific data collection instrument 1/1/2023 for the January 2024 NAEC accreditation submission

Data Collection Instrument

- During Pilot year 1 will use Excel
  - Drop down choices and multi-select enabled
  - Allows for centers and NAEC to automatically calculate the group level data currently collected annually

- Years 2/3 will transition to a web-based data collection instrument
  - Currently exploring best options

Data Platform Examples

Center ID #	Patient ID	Race	Ethnicity	Sex	Primary Payer
1	1	Black or African American	Not Hispanic or Latino	Male	Public

Data Platform Examples

Epilepsy Type	Etiology (multiselect)	Seizure types (multiselect)	Syndrome	Previous treatment surgery (including neuromodulation)	Age at Surgery	Year of Surgery
Focal	Structural	Focal to BTC	Other familial temporal lobe epilepsies	Yes	19 years or older	2021

National Association NAEC of Epilepsy Centers

Data Platform Examples

Intracranial EEG	Intraoperative ECOG at resection	Location of resection or device target	Type of resection / disconnection / ablation	Type of device	Complications (multiselect)
Stereo EEG	No	temporal neocortical		RNS placement	Readmission, reoperation or prolonged length of stay

Data Platform Examples

12-month Engel Outcome	12-month ILAE Score	24-month Engel Outcome	24-month ILAE Score
III	4		

Next Steps

- Express interest via online form

- Two virtual meetings (December and January) with interested and participating centers to launch pilot