

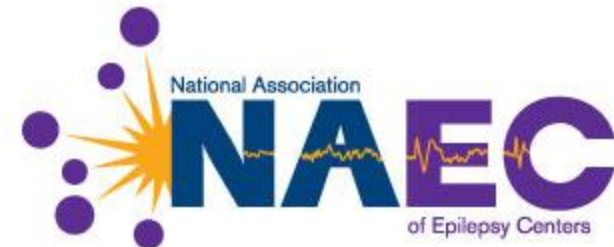
# NAEC Annual Meeting

December 9, 2024



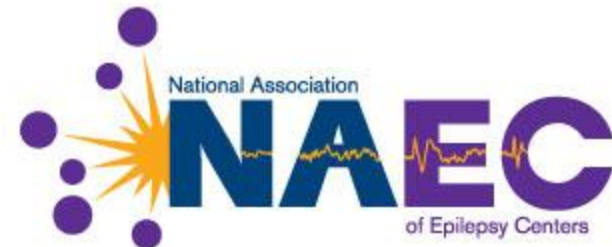
# Agenda

1. Welcome and 2024 Update – Dr. Fred Lado
  - a. NAEC Business Update
  - b. 2024 Activities and Accomplishments
  - c. Plans for 2025
  - d. New and Retiring Board Members
2. Accreditation Program Changes – Dr. Stephan Schuele
  - a. 2025 Accreditation – New Criteria and programs
  - b. Phasing in of Guideline Recommendations in 2026
3. Discussion



# 2024 NAEC Update

Dr. Fred Lado  
NAEC President



# 2024 NAEC Epilepsy Center Accreditation

## Center Demographic

	Adult	Adult/Pediatric	Pediatric	Total
Level 4	134	16	81	231
Level 3	47	7	24	78
Total	181	23	105	309

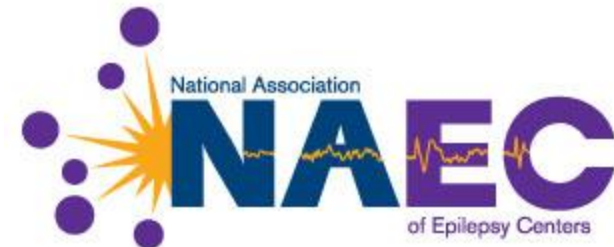
## NAEC Centers Accredited by Year

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Level 4	231	196	198	197	199	192	188	181
Level 3	78	58	61	62	57	54	52	52
Total	309	254	259	259	256	246	240	233



# Center Growth Due to Adult/Pediatric Center Demographic Ending

- In 2024, the 49 adult/ped centers were accredited as follows:
  - More than two thirds (33 centers) separated and were accredited as level 4 adult and level 4 pediatric centers.
  - About a fourth (12 centers) separated and were accredited as level 4 adult and level 3 pediatric centers.
- In 2025, 23 adult/pediatric centers will be applying for separate accreditation.



# 2024 Activities and Accomplishments

**Standard  
Setting**

**Advocacy**

**Member  
Center  
Support**

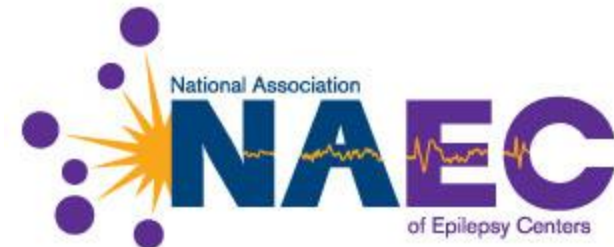
**Community**

**Assuring quality epilepsy care by  
supporting strong specialized epilepsy centers**



# 2024 Activities: Standard Setting

- Completed the 2024 Accreditation Process by March. Level 4 Centers submitted to US News
- Annual Accreditation Retreat in June to update criteria and process for 2024
- Website rebuild to improve Center Annual Report experience for members



# 2024 Activities: Standard Setting

- Epilepsy Center Guidelines published in *Neurology* in February 2024 - Executive Summary and full Guideline as an eAppendix
- PR Strategy on Guidelines
  - 20 articles and editorials in neurology and non-neurology journals/newsletters including *Neurology*, *HealthDay*, *Physicians Weekly*
  - Podcasts (*Neurology* and *Epilepsy Currents*) and online interviews with Guideline Chairs





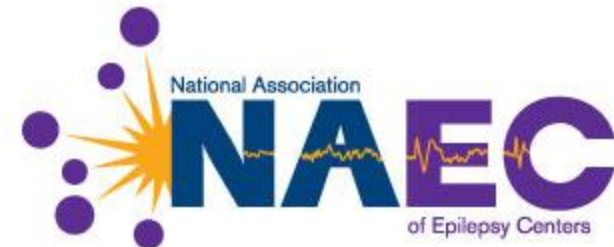
# 2024 Activities: Advocacy

- NAEC participated in advocacy activities resulting in:
  - CMS approval of Epileptologist Subspecialty Designation becoming effective July 1, 2024.
  - Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) extension of telehealth flexibilities for controlled substances for CY 2025
- Analysis of Medicare and Medicaid regulations and information dissemination to members



# 2024 Activities: Member Center Support

- Work Group Activities
  - Epilepsy Center Tools and Resources
  - Improving Access to Underserved/Marketing Epilepsy Centers
  - Surgical Data Pilot Program
- Webinars
  - 2024 Accreditation Process Reminders
  - 2024 Accreditation Results and Trends Data
  - Center Business Plans
  - Changes for 2025 Accreditation Process
- Responded to questions from members on accreditation, coding, reimbursement, insurance coverage policies



# 2024 Activities: Community

- Leadership roles in Epilepsy Leadership Council – serving on Nominations and Membership Committees and as Co-Chair of Advocacy Committee
- Participated in AES/ILAE Joint Taskforce on Epilepsy Healthcare Disparities
- Exhibited at Child Neurology Society Meeting in Nov 2024



# National Plan for Epilepsy Committee



**JOIN US IN SUPPORTING  
THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR EPILEPSY**

**WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE**



**SCAN ME**



# WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE.

U.S. Representatives Jim Costa (CA-21) and Greg Murphy, M.D. (NC-3) and U.S. Senators Eric Schmitt (MO) and Amy Klobuchar (MN) have introduced legislation in Congress to authorize a National Plan for Epilepsy (H.R. 10210/S. 5353).

There is a role for everyone to support the development of and advocacy for the Plan. The National Plan for Epilepsy Committee (NPEC) has formed to unite the community in this effort.

NPEC will facilitate a process for broad input and support from the entire epilepsy community – people with epilepsy, their families, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, patient advocacy groups, and other stakeholders – to contribute their expertise to create recommended actions and advance the plan.

Simultaneously, an advocacy committee is organizing to get Senators and Representatives to sign on in support of these bills.

## To learn more contact:

National Plan for Epilepsy Committee  
jgray@artemispolicygroup.com

Advocacy Steering Committee  
kcollins@g2gconsulting.com

Visit our website at [epilepsy-national-plan.org](http://epilepsy-national-plan.org) to sign up for a workgroup, contact your members of Congress, and learn more.



←  
**SCAN ME**

**TO TAKE ACTION, ASK THE PERSON WHO GAVE YOU THIS CARD, OR VISIT BOOTH N 2060.**

— THE CAMPAIGN FOR A —  
**NATIONAL PLAN  
FOR EPILEPSY**

# NATIONAL PLAN FOR EPILEPSY

## TOPIC AREAS

Foster research and innovation leading to more effective treatments and cures for epilepsy

Provide effective, timely, and responsive diagnosis, treatment, and care

Strengthen data, surveillance, and information systems

Increase public awareness about epilepsy and reduce stigma and discrimination

Eliminate access to care disparities

Prevent SUDEP and other epilepsy-related mortality

Reduce the financial impact of epilepsy

Prevent epilepsy and promote healthy behaviors

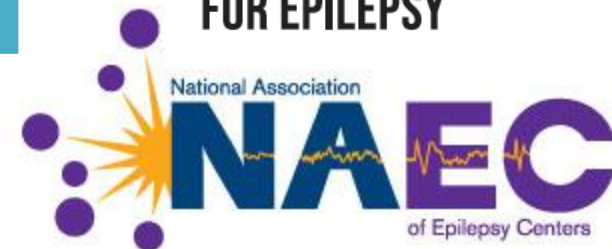
Increase access to expert and specialized care

Visit our website at [epilepsy-national-plan.org](http://epilepsy-national-plan.org) to sign up for a workgroup, contact your members of Congress, and learn more.



← SCAN ME

— THE CAMPAIGN FOR A —  
**NATIONAL PLAN  
FOR EPILEPSY**



# New NAEC Website

- Updated website launched in September 2024
- All members received emails from NAEC to invite you to set up an account.
- Stop by NAEC Booth at AES if you need assistance.

← → ↻ <https://naec-epilepsy.org> ☆ 📧 📄 📌 ☰



[About](#) [Resources](#) [Latest News](#) [Contact](#)

[Find a Center](#)

[Member Login](#)



## National Association of Epilepsy Centers

Promoting quality and access

in epilepsy care since 1987.



[Find a Member Center](#)



# NAEC Board for 2025

President	<b>Fred Lado, MD, PhD</b> Hofstra Northwell Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
Vice President	<b>Stephan Schuele, MD, MPH</b> Northwestern Medicine Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
Secretary/ Treasurer	<b>Susan Arnold, MD</b> Yale Pediatric Epilepsy Center
At-large	<b>Ahmed Abdelmoity, MD</b> Children's Mercy Epilepsy Center
At-large	<b>Kathryn Davis, MD</b> University of Pennsylvania Epilepsy Center
At-large	<b>Mohamad Koubeissi, MD</b> George Washington University Epilepsy Center
At-large	<b>Adam Ostendorf, MD</b> Nationwide Children's Hospital Epilepsy Center
Past President	<b>Susan Herman, MD</b> Barrow Neurological Institute





# Thank You to Retiring Board Members



Dave Clarke



Jenny Hopp



# Thank You to 2024 NAEAC Volunteers!

## **Accreditation Committee**

Dr. Meriem Bensalem-Owen, Chair  
Dr. Christi Heck  
Dr. Ammar Kheder  
Dr. P. Jay Foreman  
Dr. John Stern  
Dr. Imad Najm  
Dr. Maysaa Basha

## **Data and Survey Work Group**

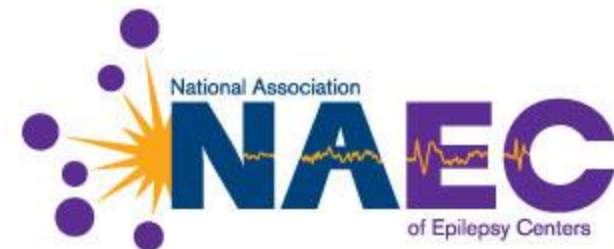
Dr. Adam Ostendorf, Chair  
Dr. Stephanie Ahrens  
Dr. Anto Bagic  
Dr. Kevin Chapman  
Dr. Nathan Fountain  
Dr. Jay Gavvala  
Dr. Kyle Rossi

## **Finance Committee**

Dr. Mohamad Koubeissi, Chair  
Dr. Ahmed Abdelmoity  
Dr. Madeline Fields

## **Guidelines Panel Co-Chairs**

Dr. Susan Arnold  
Dr. Fred Lado



# Thank you to 2024 NAEC Volunteers!

## **Tools and Resources Work Group**

Dr. Ahmed Abdelmoity, Chair  
Dr. Meriem Bensalem-Owen  
Dr. Liu Thio  
Dr. Sima Patel  
Dr. Stephan Schuele  
Dr. Dan Weber

## **Surgical Pilot Work Group**

Dr. Kate Davis, Co-Chair  
Dr. Adam Ostendorf, Co-Chair  
Dr. Sue Herman  
Dr. Lawrence Hirsch  
Dr. John Pollard  
Dr. John Rolston  
Dr. Stephan Schuele

## **Marketing and Access Work Group**

Dr. Dave Clarke, Chair  
Gabrielle Conecker  
Dr. Fred Lado  
Dr. Suchetta Joshi  
Dr. Emily Klatte  
Dr. Sandi Lam

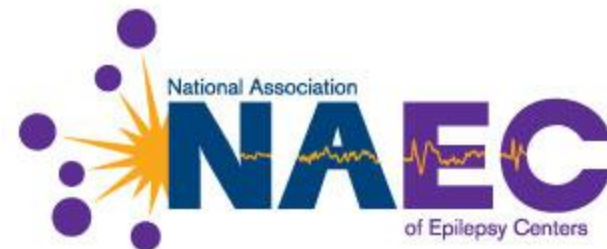
## **NAEC Coding Session**

Dr. Greg Barkley  
Dr. Sue Herman  
Dr. Deepti Zutshi



# Thank You to NAEAC Staff!

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



# 2025 Activities and Accomplishments

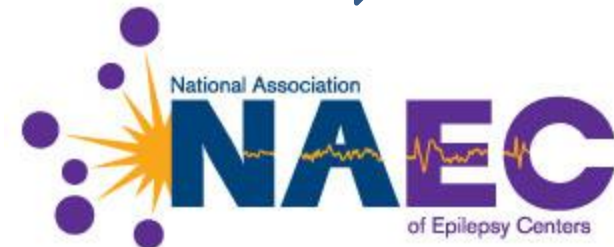
**Standard  
Setting**

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**Member  
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supporting strong specialized epilepsy centers**



# 2025 Activities

- Continue efforts to update NAEC Accreditation Program, by identifying criteria with greatest impact on quality of care.
  - Continue phase in of guideline recommendations into NAEC center accreditation
- Maintaining currency of Epilepsy Center Guidelines
  - Evaluation of living guideline model for updating guidelines.



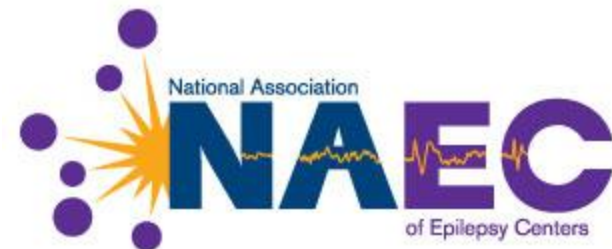
# 2025 Activities

- NAEC Surgical Data Pilot
  - Completion of 3-year pilot with 14 participating centers with publication of major findings.
  - Phase-in of all surgical centers to participate in providing surgical data.
- Developing Resources and Tools for Epilepsy Centers
  - Webinars on center management
  - Expand Resources for Centers on NAEC Website



# 2025 Activities

- Improving Access to Accredited Epilepsy Centers, with a focus on poorly resourced communities.
  - Developing patient education tools that focus on the benefits of epilepsy center care
  - Work with patient groups to disseminate
  - Seeking additional ideas / tools / resources from members





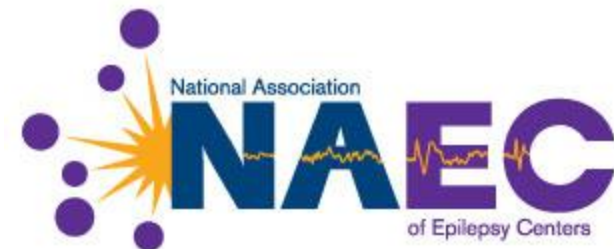
# NAEC Accreditation Updates

Dr. Stephan Schuele  
NAEC Vice President



# 2025 Accreditation Timeline

- **November 25, 2024:** NAEC 2025 accreditation process began; Instructions distributed.
- **January 31, 2025:** Deadline to pay dues, complete the Center Annual Report, upload required documents to Box.com, and complete the supplemental survey.
- **February 1-15, 2025:** Review and Revise Period: NAEC staff will review your center's submission for completion and let you know if anything is missing.
- **March 1, 2025:** Final deadline for any revisions or additions. **We cannot accept dues or materials after this date.**



# Overview of 2025 Changes

- Epileptologist board certification clarification
- Neuromodulatory devices
- Case Minimums during Interim accreditation year
- EMU Policy and Protocols reviewed and approved by center leaders
- Nursing education requirements paused in 2025
- ABRET LAB-LTM-EM+ phase out begins
- Split for adult/ped centers – final year



# Board Certification of Epileptologists and Medical Directors

- Second Epileptologist: Level 4 centers' 2nd epileptologists that are **“board-eligible” can only have this status for 7 years after completion of training.** S/he must become board certified within 7 years for NAEC accreditation purposes.
- Foreign-Trained Physicians:
  - Starting in 2025, all NAEC center directors will be held to the same standard for ABPN/ABCN subspecialty board certification.
  - ABCN offers examination and certification for international candidates who are ineligible for US board certification.
  - **Current center medical directors who completed their training outside of the US have up to 3 years to meet the ABPN/ABCN subspecialty board certification requirement. New centers applying for accreditation will be required to meet the medical director board certification criterion without the phase-in period.**



# Neuromodulatory Devices

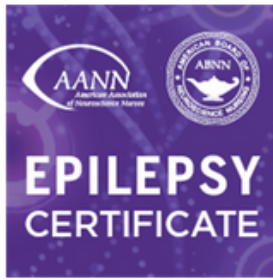
- For 2025, NAEC will require all level 4 centers to:
  - **List a minimum of 1 case of implantation of VNS, DBS, or RNS in their Center Annual Report**
  - **Submit one VNS/DBS/RNS de-identified patient report in their full accreditation year.**
  - A VNS battery change case is not sufficient to count for this criterion.



# EMU Policy and Protocols

- For centers in their full accreditation year in 2025 and accreditation cycles following, **the EMU Policy meeting NAEC criteria must be dated and signed by the center medical director, EMU administrative nurse manager or equivalent, and lab EEG manager. (Change)**
- For centers in their full accreditation year in 2025 and accreditation cycles following, **all centers will be required to upload a statement or letter that is dated and signed by the center medical director, EMU administrative nurse manager or equivalent, and lab EEG manager indicating that they have reviewed the protocols, they are current, and they are being followed by the center.**





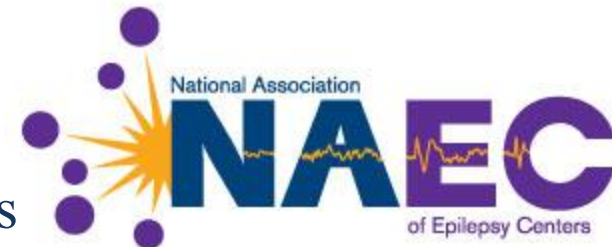
## Seizure and Epilepsy Healthcare Professional in a Comprehensive Epilepsy Center Certificate Program: 8 Modules

- For the 2025 accreditation cycle, **NAEC will not require that centers to show that an additional nurse has completed the AANN 8-module epilepsy course. (Change)**
- NAEC has worked with AANN to pull out 2 modules for epilepsy center nurses. Nurses at NAEC member centers will be able to access these modules at no cost to centers in 2025.
- Access to the full certificate program course will be available to nurses at NAEC centers for only \$200 in 2025.
- NAEC will announce 2026 requirements in summer 2025.



# ABRET LAB-LTM-EM+ Recognition

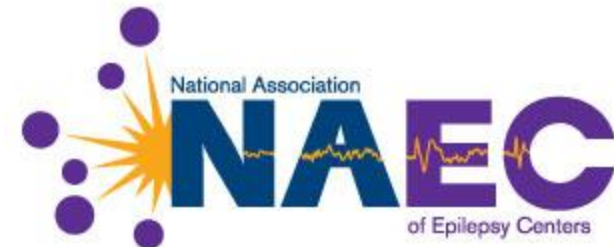
- **NAEC will phase out its allowance for LAB-LTM-EM+ centers to not have to submit scalp and intracranial vEEG reports for NAEC Accreditation**
  - All centers that currently have LAB-LTM-EM+ or who had filed their letter of intent with ABRET by July 1, 2024 and achieved it, will continue to be excused from submitting the required vEEG patient reports during their current 5-year accreditation period.
  - Once their current ABRET accreditation period is over, these centers will have to submit all relevant patient reports.
- NAEC will continue to recognize members with LAB-LTM-EM+ on the NAEC website and is continuing conversations with ABRET about ways to coordinate our programs in future years.





# Adult/Pediatric Center Split

- All adult/ped centers completing the 2025 full accreditation process will be accredited as an adult **OR** pediatric center or as **separate** adult and pediatric centers.
- Going forward NAEC will no longer accredit combined adult/ped centers.
- Centers that split may have different accreditation levels for the adult and pediatric programs.



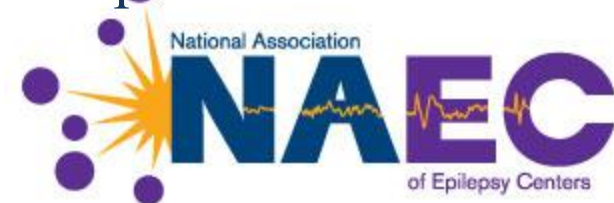
# Anticipated Changes for 2026

Start Preparing Now



# Surgical Pilot Expansion

- For the last three years, NAEC has piloted having centers submit de-identified patient-level data and track outcomes for surgical patients. Based on this successful pilot, NAEC plans to expand to all centers that perform surgeries:
  - **For the 2026 Accreditation Process**, NAEC plans to require **all centers to enter de-identified patient data for all of their epilepsy surgeries in 2025, including neuromodulator implants and battery changes.**
  - Data will be submitted via a new portal on the NAEC website. Access to the portal will be phased-in in 2025.
  - We will post the data dictionary in Jan. 2025 and provide other tools to support centers.



# Guideline Recommendation Phase In

- In 2026, NAEC will continue to incorporate recommendations from the new NAEC Guidelines
- These criteria were selected because:
  - they address topics not currently included in the accreditation criteria;
  - they reflected high-priority topics for the patient and caregiver participants on the Guidelines panel;
  - it was felt that the criteria would not be overly burdensome for centers.



# 2026 Accreditation Criteria from Guidelines

## – Patient Reports and Board Certifications

- Patient reports:
  - Change intracranial requirement to be 1 comprehensive intracranial video EEG report and 6 surgical implantation reports, which will reduce burden for both centers and NAEC staff
  - Add MEG to the reports that a level 4 center can submit, so it would be PET, SPECT, or MEG
  - Require submission of the minutes of one multi-disciplinary pre-surgical conference
- Neuroradiologist Board Certification



# 2026 Accreditation Criteria from Guidelines – New Protocols

- MRI Protocol if it is not included in MRI patient report.
- Documentation of verbal and written patient and caregiver education in preparation for EMU admission.
- Identification of patients who would most likely benefit from genetic testing, even if their seizures are well controlled.
- Documentation of nursing procedure for patient communication utilizing telephone and virtual healthcare access services with prompt response to patient concerns.
- Protocol for how center involves both epileptologists and mental health providers in diagnosis and follow-up planning for patients with PNEE.



# 2026 Accreditation Changes

- Adding more questions about patient demographics to Center Annual Report
- Likely to have other changes, which will be announced in Summer 2025



# 2025 Accreditation Webinars

- Introduction to Accreditation Process Webinar: December 16, 2024
  - Geared towards new center directors and staff who have not done an NAEAC accreditation process
- General Accreditation Webinar: January 2025
  - For all center directors and staff completing the 2024 process





# 2025 Accreditation Timeline

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