



National Association of Epilepsy Centers Strategic Framework

Executive Summary

The National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) Board of Directors and staff met March 17-18, 2016 to develop a strategic framework to address the evolving nature of the organization. A clarifying vision and explicit mission were codified and general goals with specific objectives and initiatives were developed to guide the association's work over the next three to five years. This is NAEC's first formal written strategic plan and is consistent with the association's desire to be transparent, action-oriented, and rapidly responsive to the needs of member centers.

The goals of the plan are to:

1. Set a strategic direction with clear goals, objectives & metrics. NAEC will focus its attention on three goals: standard setting, advocacy, and member center support.
 - Standard setting objectives commit NAEC to updating the guidelines for "Essential services, personnel, and facilities in specialized epilepsy centers" to be more comprehensive and evidence-based and aligning accreditation with the guidelines. A longer term objective is to examine how accreditation can better represent center expertise.
 - Advocacy objectives concentrate on maintaining support for epilepsy centers at all levels of government and throughout the practice of medicine.
 - Member center support objectives continue the current practice of addressing needs of individual centers as they arise but also commit to providing documentation and support for running a comprehensive epilepsy center.
2. Design an infrastructure that can achieve these plans. NAEC board and staff are working above capacity. Additional staff will be added to address an expanding program of work.

With a clear timetable of implementation tasks laid out, the NAEC board set a clear strategic direction that is proactive and forward-thinking and will strengthen the value and importance of NAEC membership. The NAEC board also set metrics for monitoring progress and will re-examine the objectives and initiatives annually to ensure NAEC is on track to achieve its goals. An outline of the Association's strategic plan follows.

NAEC Strategic Plan 2016-2019

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, and providing knowledge and resources to its member centers.

I. Standard Setting NAEC will define continuously improving standards for epilepsy centers to ensure the highest quality care.	II. Advocacy NAEC will ensure the current and future role, value and viability of epilepsy centers.	III. Member Center Support NAEC will be the comprehensive resource for the organization and administration of epilepsy centers.
A. Update the guidelines to be more comprehensive and connect where possible to supportive evidence. B. Incorporate the revised guidelines into the accreditation process. C. Explore reformulating the basis by which expertise at centers is assessed. D. Create a database for key process and outcomes data related to quality metrics.	A. Protect current reimbursement mechanisms that benefit epilepsy center services. B. Assess and plan for changes in future healthcare delivery environment for epilepsy center services. C. Develop and disseminate materials showing the value of an epilepsy center. D. Assess centers' challenges with private insurers and develop plan to address barriers and increase opportunities. E. Promote federal recognition of epilepsy centers with government agencies and programs. F. Work with other organizations with similar goals to improve access to high quality epilepsy care.	A. Redesign the NAEC website to be user-friendly, attractive and a valuable resource for our members. B. Write, prototype, and solicit comments on a comprehensive operations manual. C. Update the coding manual. D. Write and publish a paper documenting the methodology and rationale for the NAEC accreditation process. E. Solicit information from centers about the resources they need.
Metrics: Successful updating of standards and guidelines by 2018.	Metric: Financial and regulatory barriers to quality care minimized.	Metric: Member use of and satisfaction with resources.

Expertise, Evidence & Resources