

Important Information Regarding the New EMS Data Law



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On July, 21, 2017, Governor Christie signed S-5/A-4925 which establishes data reporting requirements for Emergency Medical Services(EMS) agencies and dispatch centers and formalizes the relationship of the NJ EMS Task Force. We are very grateful for all the support the EMS community has given for this important endeavor.

So how will this legislation affect your agency?

The Law mandates that ALL agencies that respond to 911 emergencies use NEMSIS compliant (currently 3.4) electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) software by January 1, 2018. For more information about NEMSIS, please visit www.NEMSIS.org. Currently, NJ has over 270 EMS agencies that are already submitting NEMSIS 3.4 compliant data to the State repository. Over 100,000 records (or about 80% of 911 calls) are submitted monthly.

We now move on to the hard work of incorporating this additional data into the State repository. We are also developing plans to reach out to small and rural EMS agencies. Part of that plan includes providing training online as well as at the upcoming EMS conference so that agencies can go live the day they return home from the conference.

Below are some common questions and answers:

Is my EMS agency included in the law?

All EMS agencies (regardless of status or licensure) that respond to 911 emergency calls must comply with the law.

When does my agency have to start submitting data?

All EMS agencies responding to 911 emergencies must be submitting data to the state repository by January 2018.

What are you going to use the data for?

OEMS is going to use the data for a variety of research and quality improvement purposes, including providing aggregate data to EMS agencies who are interested in improving their quality by comparing their performance to their peers across the state, to provide the public and other stakeholders with a report card of EMS system performance (not agency performance), and as a

way to learn more about the needs of diverse communities, populations, and systems statewide.

What electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) software can my agency use?

Agencies may use *any NEMESIS compliant (currently version 3.4) software*. For a full list of NEMESIS compliant software, please visit:

<https://nemsis.org/technical-resources/version-3/v3-compliant-software-and-compliance-testing-status/>

Does the State provide NEMESIS 3.4 compliant software for free?

YES! The Department of Health provides ePCR software FREE to any NJ based EMS agencies

What hardware is needed to use the Department's software?

A computer or tablet with internet access; the software can be used on multiple platforms including Android and iOS.

What software does the Department currently provide?

The Department currently contracts with ImageTrend; the software provided is ImageTrend Elite. For more information on the software, visit:

https://www.imagetrend.com/media/1778/imagetrend_elite.pdf

What are ImageTrend's security standards (HIPAA and IT)?

ImageTrend applications meet or exceed state and federal data privacy requirements and HIPAA guidelines. Secure logins are an industry standard process and are part of the HIPAA guidelines for data protection. These are implemented throughout the application with the use of the hierarchical security access features of the ImageTrend security module, which provides the environment for controlling the access necessary to provide data protection. The application also provides for security breach notifications and audit trails.

How do I sign up for the State ePCR program?

To register your agency for the Free ePCR program:

- Visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/ems/ems-toolbox/>
- Click on: "Register your agency for the statewide Patient Care Report (ePCR) Program"
- *Only one authorizing official should register their agency as multiple registrations will delay processing.*

What about dispatch data?

Dispatch data is also required to be submitted under the new law. Agencies will need to work with their Dispatch center to ensure CAD integration with their ePCR vendor.

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