

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

(EMT, PARAMEDIC, MICN)
REFERENCE NO. 607

SUBJECT: **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF
PREHOSPITAL DATA**

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for the submission of electronic data by prehospital care providers.

AUTHORITY: California Assembly Bill No. 1129
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 4, Sections 100169, 100170
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), 2009
Health and Safety Code, Section 130202
Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)

DEFINITION:

Electronic Data: Patient Care Records submitted in electronic format (as per LA-EMS NEMSIS Data Dictionary) or field electronic Patient Care Records (ePCRs).

PRINCIPLES:

1. All submission of electronic personal health information (PHI) shall be in compliance with HIPPA regulations.
2. PCRs require redundant back-up and emergency down time procedures.
3. The provider agency will ensure that the electronic data is compliant with the EMS Agency's data system requirement.
4. All vendors must be compliant with the current versions of the California Emergency Medical Services Information System (CEMSIS) and the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) standards. Provider agencies cannot utilize an ePCR until their selected vendor has been approved to submit data electronically to the EMS Agency.
5. All public and exclusive operating area (EOA) provider agencies and private advanced life support (ALS), specialty care transport (SCT) who make base contact, shall submit data electronically, which meets the LA-EMS NEMSIS Data Dictionary requirements, to the EMS Agency.

POLICY:

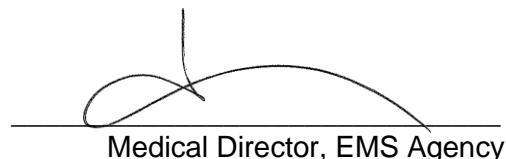
- I. Provider Agency Responsibilities
 - A. Prior to implementation of an Electronic Data System

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-01-09
REVISED: 01-01-24
SUPERSEDES: 04-01-21

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

1. Electronic Data Submission Plan

Submit a plan, approved by the department's Fire Chief or private provider agency's Chief Executive Officer, to the EMS Agency for approval which includes:

- a. Ability to transmit data to the EMS Agency which meets the LA-EMS NEMSIS Data Dictionary requirements.
 - b. A successful mechanism to provide immediate transfer of patient information to additional providers, including transporting agency (if necessary).
 - c. System to ensure a Patient Care Record is created by each EMS provider for every EMS response regardless of patient disposition.
 - i. If two (2) or more units from the same EMS provider are dispatched, at least one (1) EMS field personnel is required to initiate and complete an ePCR.
 - ii. If two (2) or more units from different EMS providers are dispatched and patient care information can be shared electronically, at least one (1) EMS field personnel is required to initiate and complete an ePCR.
 - iii. If two (2) or more units from different EMS providers are dispatched and patient care information cannot be shared electronically, at least one (1) EMS field personnel from each EMS provider is required to initiate and complete an ePCR.
 - d. Process for confirming that an ePCR has been successfully generated for each patient.
 - e. A successful mechanism for receiving facilities to have the electronic record available upon the patient's transfer of care and any patient care related revisions made after leaving the receiving facility.
 - f. Back-up system available in case of system failure.
 - g. Staff members assigned to act as a liaison between the vendor and the EMS Agency to identify and correct data issues.
2. Notify the EMS Agency's Data Systems Management Chief once a vendor has been selected and provide an estimated field implementation date.
3. Notify all hospitals that provider transports to of the intent to convert to an ePCR system and the tentative start date.

B. Implementation

1. Ensure the selected vendor contacts the EMS Agency's Data Systems Management Chief to discuss the data format, transmission procedures and obtain sequence number format.
2. Maintain a staff member to act as liaison between the vendor and the EMS Agency to identify and correct data issues.
3. Submit validated test files, meeting the LA-EMS NEMSIS Data Dictionary and LA-EMS Schematron, and the corresponding copies of the ePCRs in PDF format, that accurately reflect the documentation in the electronic record upon import.

C. Ongoing

1. Transmit validated data to the EMS Agency for import into the ESO Repository within 48 hours of the incident date. Files with validation errors will be rejected and must be corrected and re-transmitted prior to import.
2. Address and correct data related issues as they arise.
3. Implement annual data field and export program changes within three months of publication.

II. EMS Agency Responsibilities

- A. Review and approve the electronic data submission plan.
- B. Liaison with the provider agency and receiving hospital(s) to establish a mutually agreed upon method by which the receiving hospital(s) will obtain the ePCR.
- C. Meet with the provider agency and vendor to review electronic data submission plan and provide the Sequence Number formatting, LA-EMS NEMSIS Data Dictionary and LA-EMS Schematron
- D. Review validated test files, and the corresponding copies of the ePCR in PDF format, for completeness and accuracy and provide a report to the provider agency and vendor with noted deficiencies.
- E. Ongoing
 1. Monitor incoming data and notify the provider as issues arise and follow up with provider as needed to ensure data issues are addressed and resolved.
 2. Present data field changes annually to the Provider Agency Advisory Committee.

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CROSS REFERENCE:

Prehospital Care Manual:

Ref. No. 602, **Confidentiality of Patient Information**

Ref. No. 606, **Documentation of Prehospital Care**

Ref. No. 608, **Retention and Disposition of Prehospital Patient Care Records**

Ref. No. 702, **Controlled Drugs Carried on ALS Units**

LA-EMS NEMSIS Data Dictionary

LA-EMS Schematron