

EMS Information Bulletin-#054

DATE: December 20, 2007

SUBJECT: National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Standard Implementation

TO: Ambulance Services

Data Software Vendors

FROM: Robert Cooney **THRU:** Joseph W. Schmider

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Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Effective January 1, 2008, the new National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) standard will require all EMS patient data submission to be at the silver or gold federal standards. Over the past two years, we have been working towards meeting the new federal standards. However, the Bureau of EMS understands that some of the final elements to complete this switch-over have not been fully explained or provided by our federal partners, which makes it difficult to achieve a total switch-over to the new NEMSIS standard on January 1, 2008. To limit last minute confusion, the following solution is offered:

At the Bureau of EMS's website <u>www.health.state.pa.us/ems</u> the following information is available for download:

- 1. The current drug list within the Commonwealth;
- 2. The list of receiving hospitals within the Commonwealth;
- 3. Tables to cross walk the Minor Civil Division (MCD) codes to the Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) codes within the Commonwealth;
- 4. Current required data elements from the PA Bulletin; and
- 5. List of NEMSIS Silver and Pennsylvania required Elements.

This should provide the minimum data elements needed by Pennsylvania's approved Data Software Vendors to complete the transition to silver or gold standards within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Bureau of EMS is prepared and ready to receive EMS data in the silver and gold standards. We will maintain the current data submission process until such time that everyone has the needed information to make a total switch-over to the NEMSIS data standards.

Everyone has done a great job in moving over to the national standards and the Bureau of EMS appreciates everyone's hard work.

The Bureau of EMS will continue to work with Pennsylvania's Regional EMS Councils statewide to complete the Data Dictionary once the Federal Dictionary is completed and provided to the Bureau of EMS.

Until this project is completed, which is not expected to be completed for at least six months at the earliest, everyone should continue to work under the current definitions of the data elements.

As of January 1, 2008, any new software vendor who seeks Pennsylvania approval to provide EMS data submission will need to meet gold standards as outlined within the current NEMSIS documents, and must provide the Bureau with assurances that they will upgrade their software as additional information is provided.

The Bureau of EMS will update its data submission requirements elements in the normal process once the additional information is received by our partners in this project. Until such time that everyone has all of the information needed to make a total switch-over to the federal standards, the Bureau of EMS will continue to collect EMS data elements in the current process. By maintaining the current and new standards processes, ensures that the Bureau of EMS will continue to get the EMS data to at least current standards and additional data from the vendors that can meet and transmit national data standards.

The year of 2008 is the transition year in EMS data submission within the Commonwealth, which will allow us to maintain our current EMS data submission standards and some additional elements as new and complete information is provided by the federal partners. The final goal is to move the whole EMS data submission system over to gold standards by January 1, 2009. This transition will be done by working together with our many valuable partners.

This is an exciting time in EMS data submission in the Commonwealth. By meeting National Standards, Pennsylvania will be able to compare and improve its patient care delivery system. For questions or problems, please contact Robert Cooney, Project Manager, at RCooney@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-787-8740.