



Pat Quinn, Governor
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Memorandum

TO: Illinois EMS System Coordinators and Medical Directors
FROM: Jack Fleeharty, RN, EMT-P
Chief, Division of EMS and Highway Safety
DATE: April 21, 2010
SUBJECT: Transition to a NEMSIS-Compliant Prehospital Run Report System

The Illinois EMS Act states that prehospital run report data be collected to support development of parameters for evaluating the availability and quality of emergency medical care and assuring a reasonable standard of performance by the individuals and organizations providing that care. In an effort to improve the usefulness and quality of this data the State of Illinois has recently brought its electronic data submission specifications, data collection forms, and system software into alignment with a national standard called the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, or NEMSIS. Development of this system was funded using two National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants obtained through a multi-agency application process managed by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The elements comprising the new Illinois dataset were selected based on the minimum requirements outlined in Illinois Administrative Code, on NEMSIS requirements, and on input from key stakeholders, including IDPH's EMSC program and representatives from the stroke, STEMI, and trauma communities. All data elements are drawn from the NEMSIS data dictionary, version 2.2.1. However, because this dictionary contains no element comparable to the EMS System number, generic research survey field and research survey field title data elements (NEMSIS data element numbers E23_09 and E23_11) are used to collect that information.

A full list of data elements in the new dataset, including the basis for including each of them, can be accessed at the following website: www.emsdata-2.com/ILNEMSIS/. This site also contains data validation rules and tables of state-supplied values, an overview of the process for getting your system validated to send data to the state, an on-line data validation tool, a data upload utility, and information for those using the paper prehospital care report form to submit run data.

The available data submission options will remain unchanged: electronic files and paper forms (bubble sheets). The Department will begin accepting NEMSIS-compliant electronic data on April 29th, 2010. New NEMSIS-compliant data forms will also begin shipping on that date or shortly thereafter. Electronic data will continue to be accepted in the previous non-NEMSIS-compliant format through April 29th, 2011 to allow electronic submitters time to convert their systems to the new standard. Likewise, the previous non-NEMSIS-compliant paper form will continue to be accepted through October 29th, 2010 to allow paper form submitters time to deplete their existing stocks of the old form.

Regional Coordinators from the Division of EMS and Highway Safety will soon be holding informational meetings about the new system. Your attendance is strongly encouraged.

Please forward this memorandum to all EMS providers and hospitals within your respective EMS Systems, and thank you in advance for your support of this important step forward for the Illinois EMS community.