



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MARK REFOWITZ
DIRECTOR

RICHARD SANCHEZ
Assistant Director

Teri Schultz
INTERIM DEPUTY AGENCY DIRECTOR
MEDICAL SERVICES

TAMMI McCONNELL RN, MSN
EMS ADMINISTRATOR

405 W FIFTH STREET, SUITE 301A
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701

TELEPHONE: 714- 834-3500
FAX: 714- 834-3125

DATE: February 3, 2016

TO: Orange County Ambulance Providers
Orange County Fire Departments
Orange County Base Hospital Coordinators
Orange County Emergency Receiving Centers

FROM: Laurent Repass, NRP 
EMS Information Systems Chief

SUBJECT: OC-MEDS: Transition to NEMSIS 3 ePCR Systems

Since 2014, Orange County EMS (OCEMS) has been planning for and working toward the implementation of a Next Generation electronic prehospital care report (ePCR) system that will replace the systems that are in place today. Working committees have been formed with broad representation from EMS system stakeholders including ambulance providers, fire departments, and hospitals to ensure that the new system will meet the dynamic needs of the Orange County EMS System.

The "NextGen" system is based on the current version of the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS – Version 3.4) and other international health care information standards. It will significantly modernize prehospital data collection and reporting in Orange County and will enable the near future integration of EMS provider data into the continuum of patient care through existing Health Information Exchange (HIE) networks. Integration with HIE networks will allow EMS providers to exchange patient care information in real-time. This will allow provider ePCRs to be posted directly to receiving facility electronic medical record (EMR) systems and will enable EMS providers to receive vital patient information from receiving facilities such as demographic, medical history, and diagnosis/outcome data.

Although this new system includes many benefits that will help shape the future of EMS in Orange County, the implementation of ePCR systems that are compliant with the current version of NEMSIS by all EMS providers for both emergency and non-emergency patient care and transportation is now mandated pursuant to state and federal statutes and regulations. Pursuant to a newly implemented California statute (§1797.227 H&S Code), the California State EMS Authority (EMSA) recently directed (attachment) all Local EMS Agencies (LEMSA) to implement modern ePCR systems that are based on the current

version of NEMESIS and are also compliant with the California Emergency Medical Services Information System (CEMSIS) standards. LEMSAs and EMS Providers have been directed to make the transition immediately, but no later than December 31, 2016. Moreover, OCEMS has implemented and are developing new policies and procedures to address how and in what manner EMS providers can ensure that they are compliant.

Fortunately, OCEMS is prepared for this change and the transition to NextGen ePCR systems are already underway. Over the next several months, as multiple EMS providers begin their transitions it will become increasingly important to ensure that we are all aware how these changes affect our day-to-day operations. OCEMS will provide regular updates and will work with EMS stakeholders to coordinate transition efforts to ensure that any potential impacts are kept to a minimum. EMS providers are encouraged to evaluate their existing field and business operations to determine potential impacts both internally and externally.

While we are excited that these new changes will help modernize our EMS delivery systems through access to relevant and timely information, we understand how such changes affect how we all do business. If you should have questions related to the transition to the NextGen system, please feel free to contact me at (714) 834-2964 or via email at lrepass@ochca.com.

Attachment: 2016 EMS Data System Requirements (Letter from EMSA)

CC: Tammi McConnell, RN, MSN, MICN
EMS Administrator

LR:lr/#2594