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DATE: JANUARY 3, 2023

TO: EMS PROVIDER AGENCIES
DESIGNATED BASE HOSPITALS

FR: LAURENT REPASS 
EMS INFORMATION & ANALYTICS CHIEF

RE: OC-MEDS – NEMSIS V3.5 TRANSITION PLAN

Pursuant to state and federal requirements regarding EMS data standards and compliance, Orange County EMS (OCEMS) is planning to implement necessary changes to the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) over the next 12 months. The National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) standards have been updated to version 3.5 and [all states are required to be compliant no later than January 1, 2024](#). Existing (NEMSIS v3.4) data standards and software versions will sunset on that date.

California law ([H&S 1797.227](#)) and local policy ([OCEMS Policy 300.30](#)) require that EMS Providers utilize a Patient Care Reporting System (PCRS) that is [compliant with the current version of NEMSIS](#). On January 1, 2024, the current version of NEMSIS will be v3.5.

Over the next several months, OCEMS will be making necessary changes to OC-MEDS in preparation for the transition to NEMSIS v3.5. EMS providers who use OC-MEDS as their PCRS may utilize an updated county level run form or may build and configure their own run forms to meet their own business needs. EMS Providers who utilize their own “third party” PCRS, must ensure that their system is [certified v3.5 compliant](#) by NEMSIS and is approved by OCEMS as compliant and interoperable with applicable OC-MEDS policies and standards. Full transition to a NEMSIS v3.5 PCRS must be complete no later than [December 18th, 2023](#) to allow time to address any final issues prior to the statewide deadline (January 1, 2024). Successful transition to NEMSIS v3.5 will be a condition for 2024 licensure as an EMS Provider in Orange County.

The following timeline illustrates a summary of the tasks that should be completed in preparation for the transition:

- **Q1 2023 (Jan. – Mar.)**
 - OCEMS to finalize OC-MEDS Data Dictionary (OCEMS Policy 300.31) in alignment with NEMSIS v3.5 standards
 - OC-MEDS system level software updates, configuration, and testing
 - 3rd party PCRS NEMSIS compliance verification and OC-MEDS Application for use
- **Q2 2023 (Apr. – Jun.)**
 - EMS Provider agency level configuration and testing
 - Configure and test provider specific run forms
 - Configure and test data integrations (CAD, Billing, CEMSIS, etc.)

- **Q3 2023 (Jul. – Sep.)**
 - EMS Provider agency field testing and training
- **Q4 2023 (Oct. – Dec.)**
 - OC-MEDS System level implementation of NEMSIS v3.5
 - EMS Provider Agency level implementation of NEMSIS v3.5 PCRS
 - Base Hospital OC-MEDS eBHR NEMSIS v3.5 Implementations
 - Final field implementations complete no later than December 18th, 2023 to allow time to address any final issues prior to statewide deadline (January 1, 2024).

All questions regarding this important project may be directed to the OC-MEDS System Administrator on duty at oc-meds@ochca.com.

cc: Tammi McConnell, RN, MSN - EMS Administrator
Carl Schultz, MD, FACEP - EMS Medical Director

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