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DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

TO: EMS PROVIDER AGENCIES
DESIGNATED BASE HOSPITALS

FR: LAURENT REPASS 
EMS INFORMATION & ANALYTICS CHIEF

RE: NEMSIS V3.5 TRANSITION – FINAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Since January 2023, OCEMS has been preparing to transition our EMS data system to NEMSIS v3.5 by **October 1st, 2023**, in line with state guidance. All transition efforts at the System (County) level are now complete and the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) is ready to receive and process NEMSIS v3.5 data.

EMS Providers are urged to coordinate immediately with OCEMS and other operational partners (mutual aid, ambulance transport, base hospital, etc.) regarding your implementation plans. Field data transfers are not feasible between 3.4 and 3.5 run forms and may require that partner agencies implement transition plans where crews will have access to both 3.4 and 3.5 run forms to enable field data transfers.

EMS Providers **must notify** OCEMS **at least one (1) week prior to collecting any real patient data** in the 3.5 standard. Notifications should be sent to the OC-MEDS Administrator On-Call at oc-meds@ochca.com.

The following resources and processes are now in place and available for EMS providers who are ready to make the transition to NEMSIS v3.5 on or after the “Go Live” date:

- V3.5 Compliant Data Dictionary (OCEMS Policy 300.31) – Effective Oct. 1, 2023
- New v3.5 System (County) Run Forms ready to activate and use in OC-MEDS Elite
- Training Videos and Technical Summaries
- Technical processes to receive v3.5 data from third party vendors.
- Technical processes to send EMS data to the California EMS Information System (CEMSIS)

All NEMSIS v3.5 transition resources are available on the [OCEMS website](#).

EMS Provider agencies should work to implement before or shortly after the October 1st, 2023 California state go live date and must have fully completed their transitions to v3.5 **no later than Monday, December 18, 2023**, after which NEMSIS 3.4 data collection forms, methods, and processes will be disabled. Licensed EMS Providers who have not fully transitioned to the new standard by December 18, 2023, will be denied 2024 ambulance license renewal.

Questions may be directed to the OC-MEDS Administrator On-Call at oc-meds@ochca.com.

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

LR: lr#4722

**County of Orange
Health Care Agency
Emergency Medical Services
Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS)**

NEMSIS v3.5 Transition – Progress Chart by EMS Provider

EMS Agency Name	Application	Test Data	Training	Mock Drill	Live Data	Complete
<i>Timeline</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>
All Town Ambulance	AngelTrack	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
American Med Ambulance	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
American Professional Amb	AngelTrack	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Amwest Ambulance	TraumaSoft	In Progress				
Anaheim Fire Department	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Brea Fire Department	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	In Progress			
Cal-Med Ambulance	TraumaSoft	In Progress				
Care Ambulance Service	OC-MEDS	In Progress			Tues Oct 24	
Costa Mesa Fire Department	OC-MEDS	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Emergency Ambulance Service	OC-MEDS	In Progress	In Progress		Tues Oct 24	
FirstMed Ambulance Service	TraumaSoft	In Progress				
Fountain Valley Fire Dept	OC-MEDS	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Frontline EMS	AngelTrack	Complete	In Progress			
Fullerton Fire Department	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Horizon OC Ambulance	AngelTrack	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Huntington Beach Fire Dept	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
La Habra (LACo FD)	ImageTrend	In Progress	In Progress			
Laguna Beach Fire Dept	OC-MEDS	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Liberty Ambulance	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	In Progress			
Lifeline Ambulance	ImageTrend	Complete	In Progress			
LifeWest Ambulance	ImageTrend	In Progress				
Lynch EMS	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	In Progress		Tues Oct 24	
Mercy Air Service	Zoll	emsCharts				
Newport Beach Fire Dept	OC-MEDS	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Orange City Fire Department	WATER	WATER				
Orange County Fire Authority	OC-MEDS	Complete	In Progress		Tues Oct 24	
Orange County Sheriff's Dept	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress
Placentia Fire and Life Safety	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	In Progress		Tues Oct 24	
Premier Medical Transport	OC-MEDS	OC ePCR	In Progress		Sun Oct 15	
PRN Ambulance	ImageTrend	In Progress				
Royalty Ambulance	TraumaSoft	In Progress				
Shoreline Ambulance	Zoll	RescueNet				
Symbiosis Ambulance	REMSIS	REMSIS	Complete	Complete	Complete	In Progress



NEMSIS v3.5 Transition Monitor | by EMS Provider

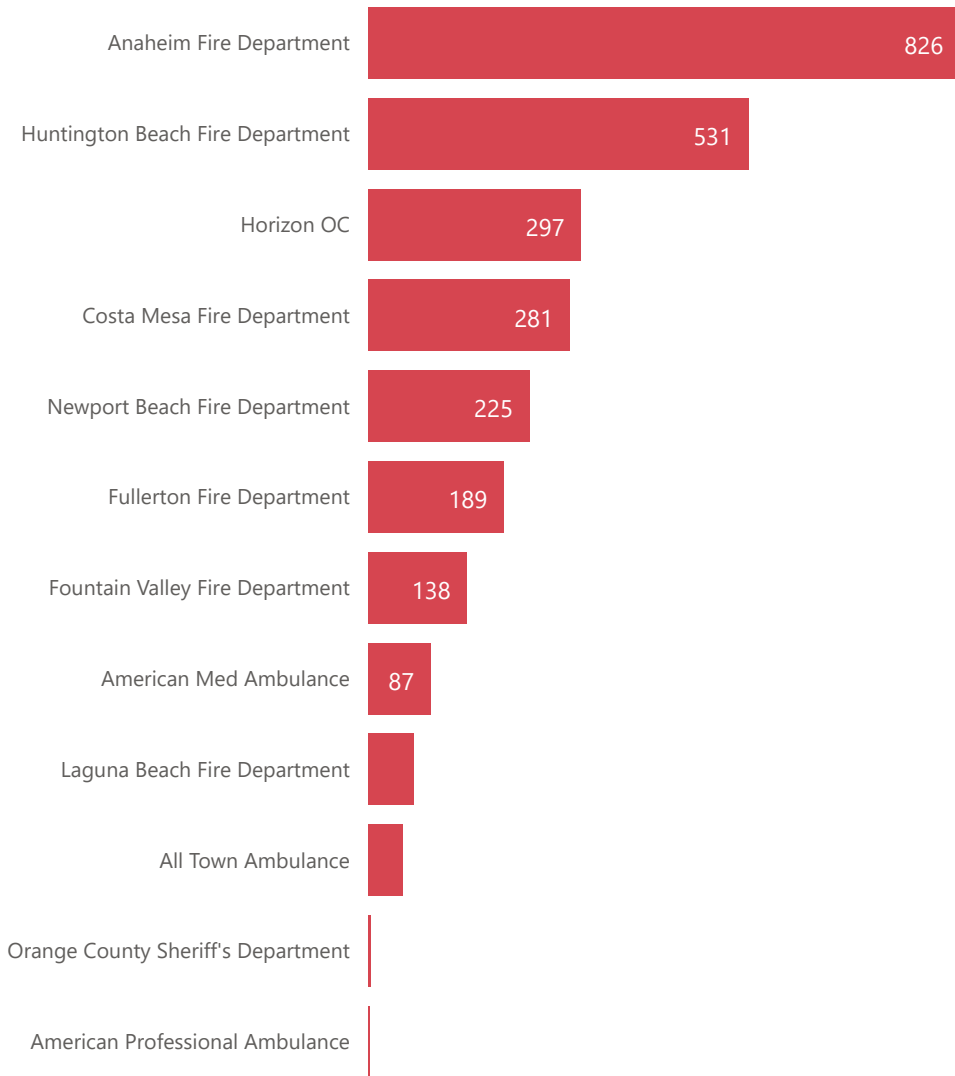
NOTE: Data is based on Patient Care Reports (PCRs) posted to the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS)

9/1/2023 12/31/2023

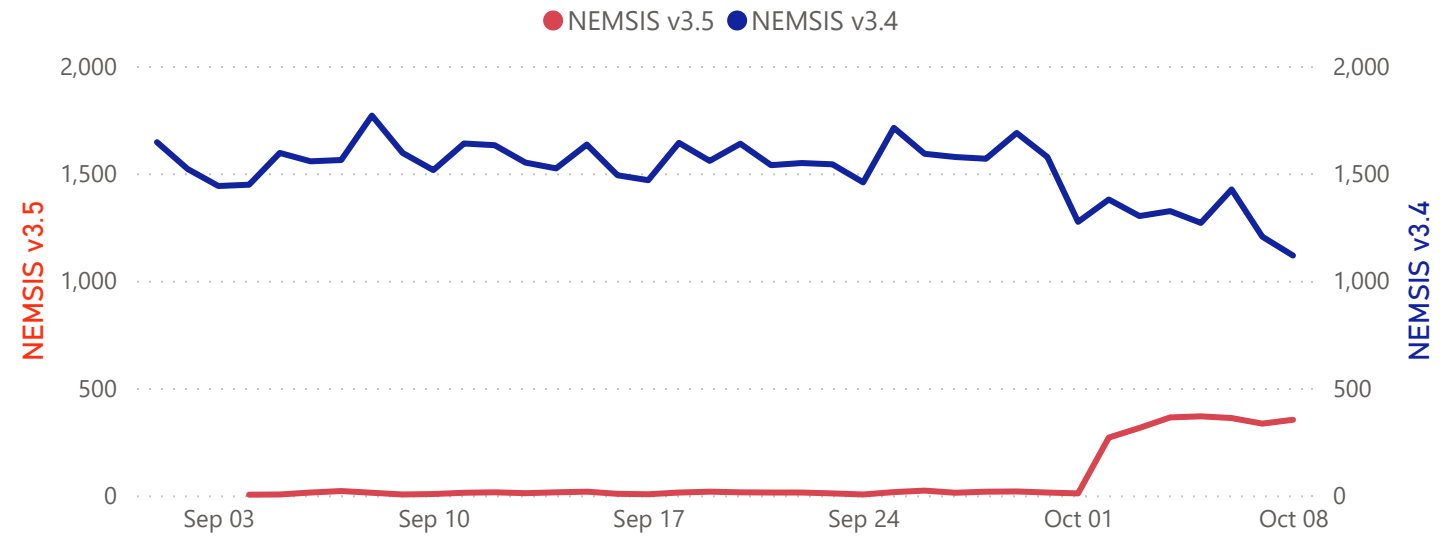


Count of NEMSIS v3.5 Records by EMS Provider

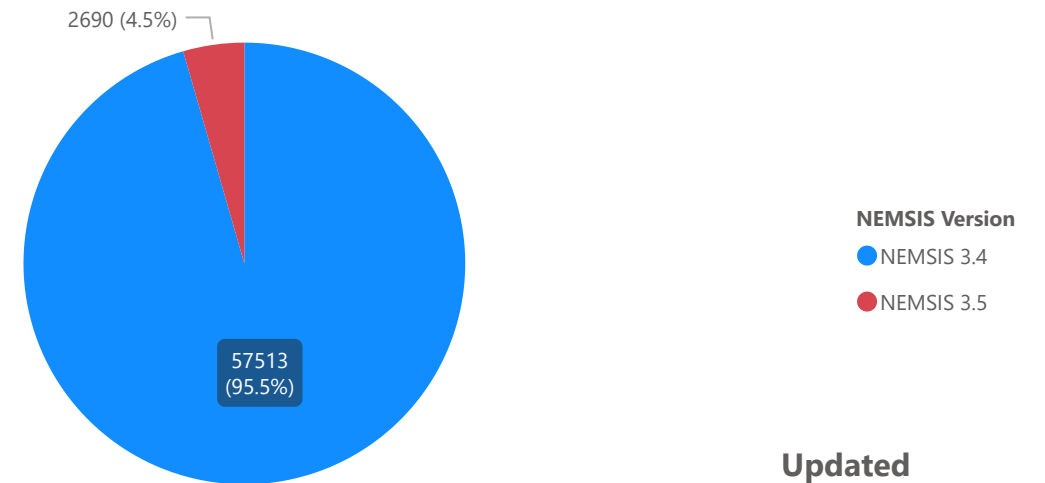
NOTE: EMS Providers will display when there has been at least one NEMSIS v3.5 record submitted



Count of EMS Records by NEMSIS Version | by Date (Systemwide)



Count of EMS Records by NEMSIS Version



Updated
10/9/2023

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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DATE: October 11, 2023

TO: Local EMS Administrators
Local EMS Medical Directors
EMS Providers
EMS Systems Partners

FROM: Elizabeth Basnett
Director

Hernando Garzon, MD
Acting Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Version 3.5 Transition Reminder

Reminder

NEMSIS Version 3.5:

On February 14, 2023, the California EMS Information System (CEMSIS) was determined compliant with NEMSIS Version 3.5 by the University of Utah. The Emergency Medical Services Authority's (EMSA's) preparation efforts for NEMSIS V3.5 compliance have occurred simultaneously alongside our transition work for CEMSIS to be an EMSA administered program. CEMSIS is now able to accept NEMSIS V3.5 data from entities who have also achieved compliance approval from the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC).

The goal is for all entities submitting data to CEMSIS to be NEMSIS V3.5 compliant by December 31, 2023. EMSA will accept V3.4 and V3.5 data until December 31, 2023. Beginning January 1, 2024, EMSA will only accept NEMSIS V3.5 database on the sunset of V3.4.

EMSA has outlined the following information to assist local EMS agencies (LEMSAs) and EMS providers with clarification on data system operations and to support statutory requirements related to data.

AB 503 – Health and Safety Code 1797.122: As allowed in Health and Safety Code (HSC) 1797.122, EMSA will set the “minimum standards for the implementation of data collection, including system operation, patient outcome and performance quality

improvement." These standards will be incorporated into revisions of Chapter 12, and standards for paramedics can be found in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic, Article 8, Record Keeping and Fees.

AB 1223 – Health and Safety Code 1797.225:

Beginning July 1, 2019, HSC 1797.225 required that LEMSAs transmit Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) data quarterly to EMSA. EMSA and stakeholders developed APOT-1 and APOT-2 specifications for use by the LEMSAs when generating and submitting their reports. APOT Submissions are currently due 30 days after each quarter.

On January 1, 2023, EMSA began transitioning away from using LEMSA-generated APOT reports and is moving toward solely utilizing CEMSIS data to generate APOT reporting and analysis.

AB 1129 – Health and Safety Code 1797.227:

HSC 1797.227 requires:

1. Each emergency medical care provider uses an electronic health record system when collecting and submitting EMS data to a local EMS Agency.
 - a. For the purposes of interpreting the provisions of HSC 1797.227, EMSA recognizes that "electronic health record" means electronic patient care record (ePCR). An electronic health record (EHR), as defined by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), is a digital version of a patient's paper chart.
 - b. The electronic health record must have the capability of mobile entry at the patient's bedside and incorporate workflow for real-time entry of information. This also means that all EHR systems should be interoperable with other systems, including the functionality to exchange (send and receive) electronic patient health information with other entities including hospitals, in an HL7 format using ONC standards. NEMSIS incorporates these format standards.
2. The electronic health record system must be compliant with the current version of NEMSIS and CEMSIS.
 - a. "Compliant" refers to an EHR system that has been tested and certified by NEMSIS; certification information is posted on the NEMSIS website. Emergency medical services providers shall use a NEMSIS-compliant vendor in the submission of data to the LEMSA. Software vendors maintain compliance in California by testing annually with NEMSIS. CEMSIS will only accept data from compliant software vendors.
 - b. NEMSIS National/State or State-only elements and value sets shall be used as defined in the mandatory, required, recommended, and optional lists as published in Version 3.4.0 or most current version, except as listed below

- under 3a.
3. The electronic health record system must be compliant with the current California data standard for EMS data.
 - a. Data Compliance with CEMSIS is further determined by meeting any additional requirements set by EMSA, including California-specific criteria that expand or limit the responses for any NEMSIS element. EMS providers shall use California specific value sets for the following elements as defined on the CEMSIS page of EMSA's website:
 - Provider Agency List (dAgency.01) – Providers shall only use their EMSA assigned CEMSIS Identification number noted on the Provider Agency List (dAgency.01) and must request a new number through EMSA.
 - Facility Identification (dFacility.02/dFacility.03)
 - Cause of Injury (eInjury.01)
 - Symptom List (eSituation.09)
 - Provider Primary Impression (eSituation.11)
 - Location Type (eScene.09)
 - b. Compliance is achieved when a provider submits data to the LEMSA (or directly to EMSA, where permitted) from a NEMSIS-compliant software vendor including fields identified in the NEMSIS standard as mandatory, required, recommended and optional, as well as the California-specific value sets. Compliant data submission to the LEMSA shall utilize descriptive values and contain minimal use of NOT and null values, limited only to situations where no other value is appropriate for documentation of a given situation.
 - c. The time-period for submission to CEMSIS shall be defined by the LEMSA and shall not exceed 72 hours after an EMS response. Data consistent with CCR Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4. Paramedic, Section 100171, (e) and (f) shall also be submitted to the LEMSA, as required.

NEMSIS V3.5 Workshops:

From August to October 2023, EMSA hosted monthly virtual workshops to discuss the upcoming transition to NEMSIS Version 3.5. This workshop was an opportunity for data and administrative staff, software vendors, and EMS providers to learn more about NEMSIS version 3.5 and have questions answered about data issues related to the transition. The presentation can be found on the website: www.emsa.ca.gov/CEMSIS under CEMSIS update.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact the EMSA EMS Systems Division through either Tom McGinnis (email Tom.McGinnis@emsa.ca.gov, phone (916) 431-3695) or Adrienne Kim (email Adrienne.Kim@emsa.ca.gov, phone (916) 431-3742).