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SPECIALIZED MEDICAL SERVICES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

May 6, 2025

To: EMS Service Providers

From: Laurent Repass, NRP
EMS Information and Analytics Chief

Subject: OC-MEDS Patient Care Reporting System Updates

Several recent regulatory updates necessitate that we plan for changes to our EMS Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems to remain compliant with state and federal EMS data requirements and to meet continued operational/business needs of EMS providers.

Required NEMSIS / CEMSIS Updates:

Pursuant to OCEMS Policy 300.30 and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter(s) 3.1 and 3.3 (§100097.01), EMS providers must complete and submit Patient Care Reports (PCR) using a Patient Care Reporting System (PCRS) that is *certified* compliant with the current version of the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) and the California EMS Information System (CEMSIS).

Two (2) recent updates to NEMSIS require that we implement changes to the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) soon.

- NEMSIS v3.5.0 Critical Patch 5 - ePatient.13 (Gender) – Deprecated / Replaced by ePatient.25 (Sex)
- NEMSIS v.3.5.1

Implementation of these changes in OC-MEDS are predicated on both vendor software updates (which are currently under development) and OCEMS configuration. Based on the information we have; we anticipate that we will begin to roll out these changes during or about **Q4 (Oct. – Dec.) 2025**.

EMS providers who use a *third-party* PCRS will need to make similar changes to their system to ensure continued compliance. Providers may monitor their vendor's compliance on the NEMSIS website at: <https://nemsis.org/technical-resources/version-3/v3-compliant-software-and-compliance-testing-status/>.

Updates to “Authorization for Billing” Signature Text

California Senate Bill 1061 requires healthcare providers to include specific language in medical debt contracts no later than **July 1, 2025**. This has been interpreted by several EMS providers and their billing vendors to require the addition of the following language to the EMS patient care report.

A holder of this medical debt contract is prohibited by Section 1785.27 of the Civil Code from furnishing any information related to this debt to a consumer credit reporting agency. In addition to any other penalties allowed by law, if a person knowingly violates that section by furnishing information regarding this debt to a consumer credit reporting agency, the debt shall be void and unenforceable.

This language will be integrated into the “Authorization for Billing” signature statement in the OC-MEDS PCRS before July 1, 2025, and patients and other signatories would be required to read this language and sign in agreement where “Authorization for Billing” applies.

While the addition of this language to the PCRS is not an OCEMS requirement, it is understood that it may be required for healthcare provider business operations. We would appreciate any feedback from providers who do not support this modification.

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please contact the OC-MEDS System Administrator on duty at oc-meds@ochca.com.

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