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SPECIALIZED MEDICAL SERVICES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

September 10, 2025

To: EMS Service Providers

From: Laurent Repass, NRP 
EMS Information and Analytics Chief

Subject: Patient Care Reporting System – APOT Data Element Compliance

Pursuant to California AB 40, codified in 22 CCR §100006.01, EMS Transport Provider Agencies must ensure that their Patient Care Reporting System (PCRS) can collect an electronic signature from receiving hospital healthcare providers including a time stamp upon patient transfer of care. EMS Transport Providers must also ensure that their PCRS can collect all relevant data elements used to measure Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT).

The new regulations and data requirements are clarified in a letter from the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) dated June 26, 2025, attached.

OCEMS has confirmed that the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) Patient Care Reporting System (PCRS) default configurations meet all requirements as specified in regulations. EMS Transport Providers who use the OC-MEDS PCRS, but manage their own “Run Forms”, must review their custom configuration to ensure they are compliant. Moreover, EMS Transport Providers who use a third-party PCRS must ensure that their systems can collect and submit all required elements to OC-MEDS.

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

Copy: Carl Schultz, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director



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DATE: June 26, 2025

TO: LEMSA Administrators
LEMSA Medical Directors
EMS Provider Agencies

FROM: Elizabeth Basnett, Director 
Hernando Garzon, MD, Chief Medical Officer  H. Garzon, M.D.

SUBJECT: Clarification of APOT-1 Technical Specifications and Electronic Patient Care Record (ePCR) Documentation Requirements in Approved APOT Regulations.

On June 18, 2025, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission voted and approved the emergency regulations for Chapter 1. Delivering Equitable and Person-Centered Care: Article 1.2 Ambulance Patient Offload Time. These regulations were approved by OAL and took effect on June 23, 2025.

Within these regulations, there are several National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data elements that are required in regulation and are essential for the APOT audit tool that is utilized between the general acute care hospital, the local EMS Agencies, and EMS personnel. These NEMSIS data elements are new compared to the APOT Technical Specification currently in use since September 19, 2022 (which can be found on the EMSA web site). These data elements allow for the standardized documentation and data/time stamp applied to the authorized hospital staff member signature which is provided at the moment of transfer of care.

This APOT audit tool is designed to help resolve potential discrepancies between the ePCR transfer of care time (NEMSIS element eTimes.12) and the hospital's recorded transfer of care time.

Per the technical specification for APOT-1 noted in regulations, the following NEMSIS data elements shall be linked to the hospital staff's signature provided at the moment of transfer of care, and shall be assigned the indicated values from the specification sheet listed in Chapter 1, Article 1.2:

- eOther.12 – Type of Person Signing
 - Value shall be recorded as – 4512005 Healthcare Provider
- eOther.13 – Signature Reason
 - Value shall be recorded as – 4513007 Transfer of Patient Care
- eOther.15 – Signature Status
 - Value shall be recorded as – 4515031 Signed
- eOther.19 – Signature Healthcare Provider Date Time

Clarification of APOT-1

June 26, 2025

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- Value – is logical and present

These data elements are crucial to distinguish the time stamp collected within an ePCR and the electronic signature provided by the emergency department medical personnel at the time of transfer of care from all the other signatures which may potentially appear in ePCRs. It is critical that every EMS Provider within each LEMSA implement and utilize these NEMSIS data elements as part of their ePCR for the capture of verifiable APOT data. EMSA will communicate implementation progress with the Commission on EMS.

If there are any questions or concerns, please email APOT@emsa.ca.gov.

Cc: General Acute Care Hospitals
EMS System Partners