



Via Electronic Submission

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Dr. Brinsfield and Mr. Dawson:

Beginning with efforts in the 1990s and the publication of a national uniform EMS dataset, our nation's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system has made significant progress towards collecting event level EMS data. To date, approximately 46 out of 56 states and territories are collecting EMS data consistent with the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS). Of the 10 states and territories not yet submitting data to NEMSIS, 7 have data collection systems based on the NEMSIS EMS data standard. Presently, the NEMSIS national repository holds over 42 million event level records and anticipates the collection of 22 million records this year alone.

The leadership from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Office of EMS, along with many others, has created a first of its kind single EMS data dictionary, standard XML data exchange schema, and a reliable robust national collection process. In addition, NEMSIS has progressed from its first version to a HL7 compliant version allowing for meaningful connections to other data systems both inside and outside of healthcare.

Clearly EMS data collection in our nation has evolved and will continue to evolve. To direct this evolution a shared vision for the future of EMS data collection and information sharing should be created. Similar to how the 1996 EMS Agenda for the Future document provided a clear vision for the future, one in which providers at all levels could connect their actions to the vision, an EMS Data Collection and Information Sharing Agenda for the Future document could create a shared national vision for future evolutions of EMS information systems. The future EMS data and information system could serve as a patient-centered data repository that could be used for both evidence based guidelines research and benchmarking of EMS systems from all operational and clinical aspects. Once established, EMS best practices could be quickly identified and serve as the basis for newly adopted EMS standards.

The Joint National EMS Leadership Forum (JNEMSLF) considered this subject at its most recent meeting and concluded unanimously to request that the NHTSA Office of EMS and other representative federal agencies to undertake the process of creating an EMS Data Collection and Information Sharing Agenda for the Future document.

JNEMSLF members cannot express fully their appreciation for the leadership of the NHTSA Office of EMS in the area of EMS data collection. The Forum members stand ready to assist in the process and look forward to additional conversations on this matter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Ambulance Association (www.the-aaa.org)
Association of Air Medical Services (www.AAMS.org)
Association for Critical Care Transport (www.ACCTforPatients.org)
American College of Emergency Physicians (www.acep.org)
International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (www.emergencydispatch.org)
International Association of EMS Chiefs (www.IAEMSC.org)
International Association of Fire Chiefs (www.IAFC.org)
International Association of Fire Fighters (www.IAFF.org)
International Trauma Life Support (www.itrauma.org)
National Association of EMS Educators (www.naemse.org)
National Association of EMS Physicians (www.NAEMSP.org)
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (www.NAEMT.org)
National Association of State EMS Officials (www.NASEMSO.org)
National EMS Management Association (www.NEMSMA.org)
National Volunteer Fire Council (www.NVFC.org)