




U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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To: National Association of State EMS Officials

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Subject: Extension of the National Emergency Medical Services Information System
Version 3.3.4 Closure Date

To simplify data collection and improve data quality, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) strives to constantly improve the structure and content of the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) standard. The continuous evolution of public health concerns and national health priorities require element updates to ensure the accurate and consistent characterization of offered EMS services and the condition and treatment of the patient. However, updates to the NEMSIS standard can be difficult for local EMS agencies and States to implement in a timely fashion.

In the past, the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) has maintained the ability to support two different versions of the NEMSIS standard to allow for some flexibility in the timing to update from one version to the next. Previously, the reason for only supporting two versions of the NEMSIS standard was to provide consistent support for the versions and some incentive for States to plan migrations to the most current version of NEMSIS using reasonable national timelines.

Recently, several States have requested that an older (and expiring) version of NEMSIS remain open (Version 3.3.4) past the scheduled sunset date of September 2019. Additional time is needed for some EMS agencies to migrate from Version 3.3.4, to the current Version 3.4.0, or the soon-to-be-released Version 3.5.0 of the NEMSIS standard. Respecting this request, the NHTSA Office of EMS has worked with the NEMSIS TAC to allow Version 3.3.4 to remain open until March of 2021. The closure date for NEMSIS Version 3.4.0 is still on track for January 2023.

The value and importance of EMS data collection continues to increase, intensifying the need for an adaptive national data system that can respond to the demands of a fluid healthcare

environment. As payment models and delivery systems evolve, it will be imperative that data systems provide information supporting these initiatives. We will continue to work with EMS service leaders and software developers to implement mechanisms that reduce the perceived burden associated with NEMSIS versioning.

Your continued support of NEMSIS is proving invaluable in facilitating evidence-based pre-hospital medicine and the investigation of new service models for EMS. Thank you for your support and interest in improving out-of-hospital emergency care.