



Toward Completion and Implementation of a Data Standard for Tracking Emergency Patients (TEP)

Whereas two state EMS offices, Maryland and Tennessee, approached the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) in 2007 with a request to help standardize data used to track patients, in order that local disaster operations could communicate with regional and state operations, and with resources and operations in other states to facilitate the multijurisdictional and remote transfer of patients;

Whereas software/hardware applications for tracking of emergency patients (TEP) of the time were not interoperable among vendors and standardization of TEP data had great promise to fix this, allowing data to flow with patients seamlessly, in real time, as they are transferred, and upward to state and regional emergency operations centers as needed;

Whereas NASEMSO accepted the challenge through its Data Managers Council and partnered with the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S & T) to develop TEP data standards and have them moved through a recognized standards development organization (SDO), OASIS;

Whereas a TEP data standard was approved by OASIS, has been harmonized with NEMSIS, has been endorsed by HL7 with whose standards NEMSIS strives to be compliant, and OASIS and HL7 are jointly publishing a transformation document which support the exchange of prehospital to hospital emergency patient tracking data, and HL7 is in the process of endorsing OASIS Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE) standard a sibling of TEP standard (and together they form a complete method of “regulating” patient flow consistent with bed availability across jurisdictions and states); and

Whereas despite successful patient tracking exercises across vendor patient tracking platforms, including military, using the TEP standard, today patient tracking software vendors do not seek to be TEP compliant and federal agencies having authority in the utilization of patient tracking systems or in the purchasing of such systems by states, regions, and locales do not enforce TEP compliance, leaving patient tracking data communications to be as disorganized as it was in 2007.

Now therefore be it resolved that the National Association of State EMS Officials fully endorses the TEP data standard and encourages its continued development and its harmonization with NEMSIS; and

Be it further resolved that the National Association of State EMS Officials calls upon its federal partners to provide technical and administrative assistance for the full implementation of the TEP standard and calls upon those partners and NASEMSO's members to encourage their emergency preparedness authorities to insist on TEP standard compliance by all systems supplied to them for use or to purchasers using their grant funds.

Submitted by Paul Sharpe, Chair, Data Managers Council.

Signed this 15th day of October, 2015.



Paul Patrick
2014-2016 President



Kyle Thornton
2014-2016 Secretary

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