Statement on Resources to Aid Integration of EMS Patient Care Reports with Health Information Exchange

FICEMS has long supported full implementation of the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) throughout the country. Currently 49 States and Territories collect such information from their EMS agencies and then submit a portion of that information to the National EMS Database.

The local and State EMS agencies are currently transitioning to NEMSIS Version 3.4, which has been approved as compliant with the Health Level 7 Standard. This opens new opportunities to integrate the individual EMS patient care report with regional or state level Health Information Exchange (HIE) organizations and emergency department electronic health record (EHR) systems. A number of States (California, Illinois and Utah) have received funding, primarily from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), to implement EMS/HIE projects. As a result of these projects, and related work from ONC, a number of very useful tools/resources have been developed to assist other localities and states connect EMS and HIE.

The FICEMS Strategic Plan, Objective 4.1 is to “Foster EMS participation in regional and State Health Information Exchanges (HIE)”. In support of this objective, FICEMS is pleased to make available the above referenced tools to a broad range of EMS stakeholders, especially local and State EMS entities. The tools include the following and are available using the following links.

2. Health Information Exchange and Emergency Medical Services (June, 2016)
3. Emergency Medical Services and Health Information Exchange: What do you need to know? (June, 2016)

Projects in action:
- Orange County, Calif., Begins Field Implementation of EMS Access to Patient History via HIE—May 1, 2017 Journal of Emergency Medical Services
- San Diego EMS Gains Access to EHR Data with ONC SAFR Model—May 5, 2017 EHR Intelligence

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