

## Recommendation on Grant Guidance in Support of EMS Data Systems

One of FICEMS' priorities is to assure standardization of EMS patient care data through full implementation of the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS). The availability of such standardized data has assisted in effective medical oversight assuring the quality of care, supporting EMS research and providing overall system accountability. As NEMSIS transitions from 2.2 to 3.0, FICEMS further recognizes the fundamental requirement for complete uniform documentation of EMS patient care, the inclusion of that documentation in the patient's electronic health record, the use of this data to support EMS performance measurement and improvement, and the need for a consistent and coordinated Federal approach.

Thus, one such coordinated approach should be in the use of Federal funds for the purposes of developing and enhancing EMS data systems. Use of Federal funds should be limited only to EMS data systems operating NEMSIS compliant EMS information systems. This can be uniformly mandated by Federal agencies that provide funds for the development, implementation and maintenance of EMS data systems through the inclusion of language within Federal grant guidance and cooperative agreements. Recommended language is as follows:

*FICEMS promotes the adoption and full utilization of electronic patient care data systems by all EMS agencies that are standardized through the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS). Standardized and accessible patient-level data is essential to the improvement of pre-hospital emergency care and the integration of EMS into the broader healthcare system. Several components of NEMSIS contribute to improved outcomes for patients, including:*

- *Compliance with the NEMSIS version 3 data standard;*
- *Inclusion of EMS documentation in each patient's electronic health record;*
- *Submission of patient encounter information to a State Office of EMS and submission of a subset of that information to the National EMS Database; and*
- *Utilization of aggregate patient encounter information to measure and improve performance at the local and state levels.*

*Federal funds may be used to support activities that support EMS agencies and states to implement NEMSIS-compliant data systems and use collected data meaningfully to measure and improve the quality of care, including through research. In those situations in which a NEMSIS compliant information system is not yet in place, funds may be used to assist in the establishment of such a system, consistent with the requirements of the specific grant program.*

*Emergency Preparedness grants and/or cooperative agreements are awarded to state, local, tribal, and territorial public health and health care system planning and response infrastructures nationally. Coordinating emergency preparedness grant programs throughout the Federal government supports national preparedness strategies for state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. A 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Emergency Preparedness Grant Coordination among ASPR, CDC, HRSA, NHTSA, and FEMA, created a standing interagency body to identify and discuss opportunities for grant coordination known as the Interagency Grant Coordination Committee.*

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