

NEMSAC Data Integration and Technology Priority Areas Problem Statement Addressing

Data quality improvement

Standardized training for local data managers to ensure high-quality data

The care Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is providing to their patients is extending far beyond the drop off at the Emergency Department. The data crews are entering into their patient care report to document the time line of the event, the patient's condition, and the interventions that technicians made to treat the patient has become extremely important. This information is being aggregated to set benchmarks, build an education and training curriculum, identify trends, discover weaknesses, research new treatments, find budget savings and grant opportunities, and most importantly to define and strengthen our systems of care. There are many moving parts involved in the process of data collection. A failure to manage any one of these will result in obtaining poor quality data or even a failure to capture and transfer this important information to key stakeholders. Data collection has become a central and vital to EMS and is sought at every level to improve the care we provide.

Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics go through hundreds of hours of specialized training. The EMS Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Officers who are charged with working with data to improve performance go through significantly more education. However, there is no organized and comprehensive training program available to educate QA/OI staff on the proper mechanics of quality data collection. Given that all of the data we rely on to make important operations, financial, and clinical decisions are collected at the local level, it become obvious that this is a serious hole in our professional training system. QA/QI staff need to be provided the tools to do their job.

Due to the important and increasing demand to obtain quality data to improve and strengthen EMS and our systems of care, it is the NEMSAC Sub Committee's on Data Integration and Technology that FICEMS and its partner agencies develop a specialized certified training program to educate EMS QA/QI staff on the mechanisms and best practices of data collection.