



November 5, 2021

Dear National Association of State EMS Officials:

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.

Recently, several State Directors and EMS Data Managers have requested that the expiring version of NEMSIS (Version 3.4.0) remain open past the scheduled sunset date of January 2023. The request comes as State offices of EMS continue to actively participate in COVID-19 response activities, while contending with new challenges related to scope of practice and the EMS labor force.

Respecting this request, the NHTSA Office of EMS has worked with the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) to allow Version 3.4.0 to remain open until January 2024. This 12-month extension will allow States and Territories additional time to implement the most current version of the NEMSIS Data Standard, Version 3.5.0, before data submitted in Version 3.4.0 will no longer be accepted.

The value and importance of EMS data collection continues to increase, intensifying the need for an agile national data system that can respond to the demands of a fluid healthcare environment. As the demand increases for public health surveillance, innovative payment models, and evidence-based EMS delivery systems, it is imperative that data systems provide information supporting these initiatives. **The NHTSA OEMS recognizes the burden COVID-19 has placed on State EMS resources (personnel and financial); however, it is strongly recommended that States and Territories begin the process of migrating to NEMSIS Version 3.5.0 as soon as is possible.**

The NHTSA OEMS and NEMSIS TAC will continue to work with EMS agency leaders and software developers to implement mechanisms that remove perceived obstacles 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon R. Krohmer, M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Jon R. Krohmer, M.D.
Director, Office of EMS
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration