NEMSIS UUID in Practice

2022 Annual V3 Implementation Meeting
Use of a UUID

• What is a UUID?
  • UUID = Universally Unique Identifier (electronically generated)
    • Originally created by Microsoft (used in Windows OS[GUID]).
    • “Universally Unique” across time and space (allows for independent generation).
    • No other association, meaning or value.
      • Only use: identify a unique record.
  
• Example of a UUID
  123e4567-e89b-12d3-a456-426350453501

Odds of a GUID Collision = 2 x 10^{-122}
Odds of Winning the Powerball = 1 x 10^{-9}
How/Why is a UUID Implemented in the EMSDataSet

• Upon record generation, an embed UUID in a ePCR will allow for tracking and facilitate record updates.
  • UUIDs exist in NEMSIS version 3.5.0
EMS UUID: Facilitates Down-Stream Linkage
Value Added (Privacy and Accessibility)

• Can be shared from the EMS agency...to the state...to the nation...with no lingering relationship to a patient, provider, hospital, or state.

• Local hospital, EMS agency, state and national registries now all have the same unique link between EMS and hospital records for trauma patients.

• Much more accurate and reliable than probabilistic linkage.
NEMSIS UUID: Interest has exploded!

• Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) components:
  • BIL/IIJA provision: (2) INJURY HEALTH DATA.—The Secretary shall [coordinate with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to [develop and implement a plan for States] to combine [highway crash data] and [injury health data] to produce a [national database] of [pedestrian] [injuries and fatalities], [disaggregated by demographic characteristics].
  • Other ancillary ideas include Bluetooth UUID to police record
Questions for Consideration

• What additional technical aspects of the UUID exchange do we still need to consider/build?
• What, in addition, will States and hospitals need to understand and approve its use (e.g., educational materials)?