EMS Data Submission Requirements:  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **Who is Responsible to Maintain Compliance with the EMS Data Submission Requirements?**

Under current North Carolina EMS system structure, EMS service delivery and accountability rests at the county level. It is the responsibility of the county to develop and implement an EMS data structure that will provide documentation for each EMS event using the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Standards for EMS Data Collection.

2. **What is Compliance?**

Compliance is defined by the daily electronic submission of data to OEMS via the North Carolina PreHospital Medical Information System (PreMIS) by January 1, 2005.

EMS Systems should be providing daily electronic data for every OEMS defined EMS event by January 1, 2005. If the primary data collection software or preferred method is not functional by January 1, 2005, data entry may be done using the web-based PreMIS data collection system until the primary method of data entry is functional.

The EMS system must identify all providers who will submit data in the EMS data collection and submission plan. It is the responsibility of the county EMS system to make sure all of these EMS providers are in compliance with the collection and submission of the required data to the state for each OEMS defined EMS event. This submission can be accomplished by each provider sending data to the county for submission to the state or by the provider directly collecting and submitting data to the state. The important concept is that all patient encounters within the system are captured. The system should work with all providers to determine how best to accomplish this task.

3. **What is an EMS Event?**

An EMS event has been defined by the North Carolina Office of EMS. This document can be found at www.ncems.org.

4. **What EMS Data Must be Collected?**

All EMS events, as defined by OEMS, must be documented using the required data elements as defined by the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Standards for Data Collection. This document can be found at www.ncccep.org. Although each EMS event may not require the documentation of each NCCEP data element, all appropriate data elements for each specific EMS event must be collected.
5. **What EMS Providers within an EMS System Must Submit Data?**

The EMS system through identified providers must collect and submit data to the state, if they provide the following types of service:

- Any provider which is the primary EMS service dispatched by 911 and responsible for primary patient care with or without transport.
- Any provider performing a patient evaluation functioning at the ALS level.
- Any provider transporting a patient
- Any provider providing the primary patient care for a patient that has been defibrillated by an AED prior to arrival by EMS (this includes First Responder and Public Access defibrillation).

6. **How Must Data be Submitted?**

Data must be electronically submitted by one of the following three methods by January 1, 2005:

- Use of the PreMIS Web-based data collection system
- Use of the PreMIS Mobile, Palm (PDA) based data collection system
- Use of a non-PreMIS based data collection system with import through the PreMIS XML based import process

The PreMIS-Paper based patient care report will not be supported beyond December 31, 2004.

As of January 1, 2005, PreMIS-Paper version will no longer be a viable form of data submission. One of the above mentioned forms of electronic documentation should be used instead of faxing the PreMIS-Paper form.

7. **How Often Must Data be Submitted?**

All data must be electronically submitted to OEMS via the PreMIS System within 24 hours of the calendar day the EMS event occurred.

8. **Where can I find more information on the PreMIS Import Process?**

EMS Systems may choose to use a “home grown” or commercial non-PreMIS based EMS data collection system. To electronically submit data using a non-PreMIS system, one of two XML data standards must be used as a vehicle to send data to the state.

A PreMIS defined XML standard has been place since 2003. Information on the PreMIS XML standard, technical assistance and implementation assistance can be found at [www.premis.net](http://www.premis.net).

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Version 2 Uniform PreHospital EMS Dataset XML standard can also be used to submit data to the
9. Why does the State Require EMS Data to be Collected on every EMS event?

The purpose and goal of state EMS data collection has always been in EMS performance improvement and quality management. The Office of EMS is committed to assisting and promoting the use of data by local systems to better drive EMS service delivery, clinical care, and resource utilization. Additionally, information at the state level can drive the political and decision making process with respect to EMS funding, education, policy, and support.

An invaluable benefit of the PreMIS system resides the PreMIS Reporting Portal. This web-based reporting component of PreMIS allows each EMS provider and EMS System to use their data to assist in their daily operations and future planning processes. These reports have been configured to assist with local performance improvement and to identify educational, resource, reimbursement, and patient care initiatives.

North Carolina is an active participant in the National EMS Information System initiative. This initiative promotes the implementation of an information system at the local, state, and national level. A subset of the data provided to the state will be forwarded to the National EMS Database. This database will serve to promote, support, and drive EMS initiatives at the national level.

In September of 2004, OEMS was awarded a grant by The Duke Endowment to use the state’s EMS information system to develop EMS Performance Improvement Toolkits to promote quality EMS service delivery, clinical care, and resource utilization. A significant component of this funding provides for an EMS Performance Improvement Resource Center. Information on this new and innovative project can be found at www.emspi.org.

10. What if an EMS System does not meet the EMS Data Submission Requirements?

The Office of EMS believes that the future and success of EMS systems at the local and state level will be based on knowledge and data, e.g. what can be measured, can be managed.

All future funding initiatives administered through the North Carolina Office of EMS will require compliance with the EMS data submission regulatory requirements. EMS systems not in compliance will not be eligible for grants or other EMS funding initiatives. These include but are not limited to the HRSA Bioterrorism and Rural AED grant programs.
11. What should an EMS System do NOW to Comply with the EMS Data Submission Requirements?

By November 30, 2004:

🌟 Contact PreMIS (www.premis.net) to have your EMS System Account established within PreMIS (This does not apply to EMS Systems that already have an established account)
🌟 Work with PreMIS to enroll and associate your EMS Personnel with your EMS System
🌟 Contact your EMS Data Collection Vendor and make them aware of the North Carolina EMS Data Submission requirements and have them contact PreMIS at www.premis.net to obtain technical assistance.

By January 1, 2005:

🌟 Submit EMS data daily, through one of the approved methods, electronically to OEMS via PreMIS
🌟 If the EMS system’s primary method for data collection and submission is not functional by January 1, 2005, enter each EMS event into the PreMIS web-based data collection system until the primary data collection method is functional.

12. If I have questions about the EMS Data Submission Requirements, who should I contact?

For any questions or to obtain assistance in complying with North Carolina’s EMS data submission requirements, please contact:

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