



March 20, 2009 Edition

Hello South Carolina EMS,

Welcome to the SC EMS Data Dashboard. This bi-monthly email update is coming to you from the SC Division of EMS and Trauma and the EMS Performance Improvement Center (EMSPIC).

This information is also available at www.SCEMSData.org

SC EMS Data System Enrollment Update: Turning SC Green

Check out the exciting progress of SC EMS agencies enrolling in the SC EMS Data system. [Click here](#) to see the SC EMS Data System Implementation Map. Watch South Carolina turn green as EMS agencies are trained, enrolled, and begin submitting data into the SC EMS Data project.

SC EMS Data System Summary: 3/20/2009	
Total SC EMS Agencies**	214
Total EMS Agencies who have received training	120 (56%)
Total Enrolled in the EMS Data System	58 (27%)
Total Active and Submitting Data	17 (8%)
**Represents total EMS agencies required to be using the SC EMS Data System by December 31, 2009. This number excludes credentialed EMS First Responder Agencies, as their deadline for electronic submission is December 31, 2010.	

Free Online 12-Lead ECG Training

The EMS Performance Improvement Center has licensed Tim Phalen's Online 12 Lead ECG Interpretation Course for all EMT-Paramedics in South Carolina. It is free to Paramedics and our goal is for every Paramedic who is actively caring for patients to complete this course by the end of 2009. You will receive 5 hours

of CME upon completion of the course. [Click Here](#) for instructions on how to access and log into the course.

How to Choose EMS Software that Meets Your Agencies Needs and Works with the SC EMS Data System

To meet the SC DHEC requirements for EMS Data Submission, EMS Agencies must electronically submit data using either the PreMIS Web-Based Application or Commercial EMS Software that is NEMSIS Gold Compliant. Although the PreMIS Application is free to all SC EMS Agencies, many Agencies have additional needs that only commercial EMS software can meet. Examples of commercial software interfaces include billing, connectivity to CAD systems, and the ability to download data from monitors/defibrillators.

If your EMS Agency is considering the use of a commercial EMS Software Package, the following steps are recommended:

1. Any software you consider should be NEMSIS Gold Compliant. [All EMS Software that is NEMSIS Gold Compliant can be found by clicking on this link.](#)
2. Evaluate all of the NEMSIS Gold Compliant software to identify the packages that seem promising based on your EMS Agencies operational needs and the software's ability to collect data in a timely and valid way.
3. Contact the identified Software vendors to arrange a meeting and/or demonstration. This will allow you to evaluate the user interface, reporting capabilities, and its ability to interact with billing, monitors, CAD systems, etc. **Include field level staff in this process since they will be entering the data at the time of the EMS event.**
4. Once you have narrowed down the list to 2 or 3 software packages, **check a minimum of 3 references. A reference is an EMS agency of similar size and operational style that has been using the software for a minimum of 6 months (ideally 1 year).** These references should also be submitting data to a state data system based on the NEMSIS standard such as the SC EMS Data System.
5. Once an EMS Software package and vendor has been identified which can meet all of your needs, ask for the software to be installed within your EMS Agency to test and confirm its function and abilities. It is critical that you ask for all SC EMS Data Elements (based on the NEMSIS data standard) to be enabled for this test. **Failure to have all of the SC EMS Data Elements enabled could result in failure to meet the SC DHEC requirements and the inability to send data electronically to the SC EMS Data System.**

6. [Contact the EMSPIC](#) at any point in this process for assistance but especially after this installation to test and verify the software's ability to submit data into the SC EMS Data System.

South Carolina EMS Symposium is coming April 15-18, 2009

April is a beautiful time to be at the beach and this year's Symposium at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach promises warm weather and the opportunity to hear and see the latest information in the EMS world. This will also be an opportunity for your EMS Agency to enroll and receive training on the SC EMS Data System. [Click Here for the Brochure](#) or visit the website at www.scemsnetwork.org.

A fun part of the EMS Symposium is the SC EMS Associations Golf Tournament that will be held Friday, April 17th at the Eagle's Nest Golf Course. It is a Captain's Choice style tournament with fun, food, and prizes. For details and registration go to www.scemsnetwork.org.

Important Data Submission Deadlines

There are 286 days until 2010. Don't wait until the last minute. All licensed SC EMS Agencies must be collecting and submitting data electronically into the SC EMS Data System by December 31, 2009. Learn about the SC EMS Data System and how your EMS Agency can begin participating through the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).