



IMPORTANT NOTICE: November 16, 2009

December 31, 2009 SC EMS Agency Electronic EMS Data Submission Deadline

The implementation phase of the Duke Endowment funded South Carolina EMS Data System ends December 31, 2009.

Beginning January 1, 2010, funding for the SC EMS Data System will be provided by the South Carolina Division of EMS and Trauma. The SC EMS Data System will continue to be hosted and maintained by the EMS Performance Improvement Center (EMSPIC) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The EMSPIC will continue to provide technical assistance for SC EMS Agencies regarding data application and performance improvement.

South Carolina EMS regulations require all licensed transporting EMS Agencies to participate in the SC EMS Data System by December 31, 2009. **“Participation”** is defined by the use of an electronic patient care record reporting system, configured to collect all of the SC EMS Data Elements, and actively submitting data into the SC EMS Data System within 24 hours of the EMS event. Data collection and submission can be accomplished either through the use of the free PreMIS web-based application or through the use of a NEMSIS Gold Compliant commercial software application.

In anticipation of the year-end deadline and the accelerated efforts of EMS Agencies to meet the December 31, 2009 deadline, the following information is being provided:

- All SC EMS Agencies who are not currently submitting data into the SC EMS Data System and plan to use commercial EMS software must submit a test file to the EMSPIC for evaluation and approval prior to data submission. The deadline for initial test file submission was October 1, 2009. If you have not installed your commercial software and submitted a test file, it is critical that this process begin immediately. Successful software installation, testing, and implementation typically takes 60 to 90 days to complete.
- Any SC EMS Agency using a commercial EMS software, but has not successfully completed the testing process (been approved to submit data into the SC EMS Data System), must use the PreMIS web-application until the test file process has been successfully completed.
- Any SC EMS Agency who plans to use the PreMIS web-application either permanently or temporarily (until the commercial EMS software is installed and functioning) should not wait until December 31, 2009 to begin data submission. **EMS Agencies should start using the PreMIS application no later than December 15th** to assure all staff are trained and capable of completing a patient care report for each EMS event by the December 31, 2009 deadline.
- For EMS Agencies attempting to complete the test file process using commercial EMS software, it is important to understand the following file testing timeline. **December 15, 2009** is the last day SC EMS Agencies and their Third Party Software Vendors will be guaranteed a two-day turnaround for test file review. **Completion of the test file process typically requires three to four test file submissions.** If your agency is implementing commercial EMS software and has NOT submitted a **successful** EMS Test file by close of business on **December 15, 2009**, there is no guarantee these files can be reviewed to address the December 31, 2009 deadline. Any EMS Agency, which has not submitted a test file by December 1st, should plan on using the PreMIS Web Application through the month of January and begin entering patient care reports on December 15th, 2009.
- Any SC EMS Agency not successfully submitting data into the SC EMS Data System by December 31, 2009 will be in violation of SC EMS regulations and subject to potential SC DHEC regulatory action.

If you have questions or need technical assistance in meeting this requirement, please contact:

For all SC EMS Regulatory questions, please call Jennifer Paddock Roxburgh at 803-545-4569 or email Jennifer Paddock at paddocjl@dhec.sc.gov

For specific questions regarding electronic file Testing Support call 1-866-773-6477 and ask for a member of the NEMSIS Testing team, or forward your question to nemsistesting@emspic.org