

WARDS use by First Responder Services

The new Administrative Rule went into effect on 1/1/11. Included in the rule is the requirement for First Responder agencies to provide a WARDS report when advanced skills are used. To help meet this requirement we have added a new *First Responder Agency* report option in the *Add Run* tab in WARDS. This report is reduced in size so not as much information is required and should allow it to be completed more quickly. Also be aware that because this is a new requirement, we will be allowing the first 6 months of the year to become compliant. You have until 7/1/11 to start providing the reports for all your runs that use advanced skills.

Training Information

We are planning to hold WARDS training sessions at various locations across the state this summer. As soon as we have the dates and times determined we will be sharing this information in the Memo Series, email broadcasts and they will be posted in our website as well as right here. In the meantime please use these other training resources that are available to everyone:

DO NOT use your regular WARDS account to create test run reports. The data in your regular service account is used to compile data for your service and for statewide comparisons. Test run reports should ONLY be created in the Training and Testing site. By the same token, actual run reports should not be entered in the Training and Testing site. As everyone has access to this data this would be a major HIPAA violation if you were to use actual patient information. This is the reason that any Training Center accounts are no longer linked to your regular WARDS account. You need a separate User ID and password to access these accounts.

If you already have a Training Center account this is the preferred location to create a test run report. If you do not have an active Training Center account at the WARDS logon screen you can enter the User ID of "*emsprov*" and password of "*testing*". This will allow you access to the Training and Testing site where you can create a test run report to become familiar with it use.

Another resource is ImageTrend University. To access this, click on the "*Help*" hyperlink in the upper right-hand corner of this screen. On the next screen, choose "*EMS State Bridge*". This will open another window where you can chose educational videos for a User, Medical Director or Administrator from the tabs on the left-hand side of the screen. You can also view FAQ's, release notes and manuals for EMS State Bridge (WARDS) and other associated products.