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TO: All EMS Service Directors and Data Managers

FROM: Brian Litza, EMS Director
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Unit

SUBJECT: **National EMS Information System Data Set Change to v3.0**

The Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System (WARDS) was implemented in 2006 to help collect data to improve the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. The purpose of this memo is to discuss the implementation of an updated data set for the WARDS system. As with all data systems, there are times when WARDS will be upgraded and improvements made to collect better and more comprehensive data. The state EMS program has been committed to minimizing the number of times an upgrade is made to the system.

Over the last several years, the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) has been working with state data managers to develop a new and expanded data set. This was done to capture better data and assure that it can be used for national data analysis.

The dataset has been finalized and NEMSIS has identified the transition dates from v2.2.1 to v3.0. The current NEMSIS dates are as follows:

06/30/2014	NEMSIS will start accepting v3.0 data
12/31/2014	NEMSIS will stop taking v2.2.1 data and all services must comply with v 3.0 data

In preparation for this transition, the EMS Data Management and System Quality Subcommittee of the EMS Advisory Board has reviewed the new v3.0 data points. The final documents outlining the required data elements will be posted on the EMS office website at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems/WARDS/WARDS.htm>.

If you currently enter your reports directly into WARDS, or use an ImageTrend product, you should not have any problems complying with these dates or the new v3.0 data points, provided you have a current support contract in place.

If you use a third-party software vendor such as Firehouse, Tritech or Zoll, it is important that you contact them to assure your support contract will cover the transition to NEMSIS v3.0 and

that their implementation plan will coincide with these dates. These and many other software vendors have been actively involved with various national groups in preparation to be v3.0 compliant. This should make for a seamless transition for your vendor to the new standard.

If after discussing this with your software vendor, you have any remaining concerns or questions about the implementation, please contact Chuck Happel by phone at 608-266-0471 or by e-mail at Charles.Happel@wisconsin.gov. You may also call our main line at 608-266-1568.