



Date: March 16, 2015

DPH Numbered Memo 15-01  
March 2015

To: All EMS Service Directors  
All EMS Medical Directors



From: Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Section

### Data Management Update – WARDS and NEMSIS v3

This memo provides all agencies with an update on the progress of the NEMSIS v3 transition plan. Wisconsin will be transitioning to NEMSIS v3, which will impact the Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System (WARDS). WARDS data are uploaded to NEMSIS. At this time, NEMSIS will not be able to accept data from the current system after December 31, 2015. Thus, we will be updating to NEMSIS v3, which the WARDS vendor is calling their “Elite Program.” Whether using Elite or other software to upload information into WARDS, all services must transition to NEMSIS v3 by December 31, 2015.

There are some areas that we want to be sure agencies are aware of as they prepare to transition to the updated NEMSIS v3.

- Technology changes with Elite:
  - There will be no more hurdles with Microsoft Silverlight.
  - The use of HTML5 presentation language will allow the application to look the same whether you are entering data in online or offline mode.
  - There should be a significant improvement in performance due to the new technologies being used.
  - The Field Bridge, used currently by some services, will be discontinued and replaced by “Elite Offline” which functions similarly and allows users to enter incidents while disconnected from the internet.
- Transition of old database to new: Services need to be prepared for what this transition means in light of how they currently use data (statistics, reports). This also means that a service, once they are ready to transition, has to completely transition. Both platforms cannot be used simultaneously.
- Data Points: The number of data points is increasing. The Data Committee plans to work to establish a document to assist in defining the most common required data points on which all services will be required to report. Building a consistent understanding among the services should lead to improved data.
- The Systems Quality and Data Committee of the EMS Advisory Board will assist the State EMS Office in educating providers in the use of the new Elite Platform and how to properly complete reports on the new system with accurate and valuable data.

If you have any feedback regarding the upcoming changes to NEMSIS v3 or would like to participate in the beta testing of the new platform, please contact Chuck Happel or any members of the [WI Data Management & System Quality Committee](#). Thank you for your patience as we move forward.