

## California EMS Data FAQs

1. What is NEMSIS?

The National Emergency Medical Services Information System is the national database that is used to store EMS data from the U.S. States and Territories. NEMSIS is a product of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of EMS as operated by the University of Utah.

2. What is NEMSIS V3.4?

NEMSIS provides the framework for collecting, storing and sharing standardized EMS data for the United States. The NEMSIS uniform dataset and database help local, state and national EMS stakeholders more accurately assess EMS needs and performance, as well as support better strategic planning for EMS systems of tomorrow. NEMSIS V3.4 is the most recent and advanced version of the data standard that all states use to collect data.

3. What is CEMSIS?

California Emergency Medical Services Information System is a pilot project for improving EMS data across California by collecting, aggregating and making EMS system information available to the public and system stakeholders. CEMSIS offers a secure centralized data system for collecting data about individual emergency medical service requests, patients treated at hospitals, and EMS provider organizations.

4. What can improve the data submitted into CEMSIS?

EMSA encourages a reduction in the use of the unspecified items in the NEMSIS data standard such as "NOT" values; not available, not known, not recorded, not reporting, not applicable, and blanks. Some providers place data element values in the narrative. Narratives are not machine readable and are not sent to the state.

5. Which data elements are sent to CEMSIS?

All data elements from the NEMSIS data dictionary can be sent to CEMSIS. The data elements that are marked 'Mandatory' and 'Required' are required to be sent into CEMSIS from providers and LEMSAs consistent with HSC 1797.227.

6. What is the current data standard or version of NEMSIS being used?

The current data standard or version is 3.3.4 and 3.4. California HSC §1797.227 (1) requires a provider to use an electronic health record system that exports data in a format that is compliant with the current version of CEMSIS and NEMSIS standards and includes those data elements that are required by the

local EMS agency. After December 31, 2017, version 3.3.4 will no longer be accepted and only version 3.4 will be accepted per NEMSIS.

7. What is the process for obtaining provider numbers for new providers or updating a current provider number?

Contact the CEMSIS Program Coordinator at 916-322-4336, ext. 742 or by email at [EMSData@emsa.ca.gov](mailto:EMSData@emsa.ca.gov).

8. How can I request data from CEMSIS?

Data can be requested by filling out a Data Use Agreement (DUA). DUA forms are located on the EMSA website, [www.emsa.ca.gov/CEMSIS](http://www.emsa.ca.gov/CEMSIS).

9. What limitations are there when requesting data?

When requesting data, we cannot fulfill requests that are protected under HIPAA. When requesting data, we also cannot fulfill requests that have more than 30 data elements due to capacity issues. Because of limited staff, the request may take 90 days or more.