

Office of EMS and Trauma

NEMSIS v3.5 Data Transition for ePCR Vendors

Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma

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Georgia's v3.5 Transition

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Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma

Agenda

- OEMST Data Policies
- GEMSYS Validation (Compatibility) Process
- v3.5 Validation Rules Changes
- Expectations of Vendors
- Other Data fields/elements Added
- Current Issues with Validation Rules

OEMST Data Policies

- OEMS-DM-2023-001:
EMS Data Compliance and Reporting Policy
- OEMS-VC-2023-002:
EMS ePCR Vendor Compliance Policy



EMS Policies, Rules and Regulations

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

[Official Code of Georgia Title 31, Chapter 11](#)

[Rules and Regulations Chapter 511-9-2](#)

EMS Data Compliance Policies

-  [OEMS-DM-2023-001 – EMS Data Compliance and Reporting Policy](#)
 - The intent of this policy is to specify the requirements for data compliance and reporting for all EMS Agencies currently licensed or seeking licensure by the Department. The new addition made to the policy is specified under sections 5.5-5.7.
-  [OEMS-VC-2023-001 – EMS ePCR Vendor Compliance Policy](#)
 - The intent of this policy is to specify the requirements, compatibility, and compliance of ePCR vendors for EMS responses from EMS Agencies in Georgia and the mandatory reporting requirements for NEMSIS v3.5 and all future NEMSIS versions.

EMS ePCR Vendor Compliance Policy

What's New?

- Beginning with GEMSIS v3.5 data reporting, all ePCR software vendors must be **Approved** by the Department to be utilized within Georgia's EMS system for each software version available.
 - Approval will be valid from the date of issuance as long as the ePCR software system remains compliant.
- All current ePCR software vendors being utilized in GA today must successfully complete the Department's GEMSIS Validation (Compatibility) Process no later than **September 1, 2023**.
 - ePCR vendors must start the compatibility (testing) process by August 15th.

EMS ePCR Vendor Compliance Policy - continued

- Once compatibility testing is completed and the vendor has been GA-approved, the vendor will be able to import v3.5 data to the Department on behalf of the EMS agency(s).
 - Dipti Patel will work with each vendor to set a date and time to transition the EMS Agencies.
- The Department will list all approved ePCR vendors on the Department's website.
- If a new NEMESIS Version is released after an ePCR Software Vendor has been approved by the Department and the Department determines the need to require a new approval, all ePCR software vendors must complete the GEMESIS Elite Validation (Compatibility) Process for ePCR Software Systems.

GEMSIS Validation (Compatibility) Process

- Submit an application for approval as a GEMSIS Compliant ePCR vendor Software System no later than **September 1, 2023**.
- The Department will issue the web service credentials and account credentials after the application is reviewed.
 - Testing will be performed in GA's test environment.
- The Department will provide (7) test cases that must be submitted for compatibility testing.
 - **Application and test cases are posted on the GA NEMSIS page.**
- Notify Dipti Patel once the ePCR vendor has submitted the test cases.

EMS ePCR Vendor Compliance Policy - continued

- Software system shall **NOT** allow EMS agencies to do the following:
 - Allow agencies or medics to enter facility codes and/or names not approved by the Department.
 - Software system must be configured to not allow medics to alter a crew member license number (ID) (eCrew.01) and crew member level (eCrew.02) from within the ePCR.
 - ePCR software vendors shall not prepopulate answers in the EMS agency's ePCR.
 - If an EMS agency prepopulates a field, this field must be visible for the medic to see.
 - ePCR software system shall not show "Not Recorded" or "Not Reporting" as a value option in the ePCR for medics to select.
 - ePCR software system must allow medics to select appropriate NOT Values (NV) and Pertinent Negatives (PN) as specified in the Georgia State validation rules.

EMS ePCR Vendor Compliance Policy - continued

- The Department has the final approval for imports to GEMSIS Elite. If the Department determines that the ePCR system is no longer compliant or the ePCR vendor needs to make changes to their software as a result of poor data quality or import issues, the Department reserves the right to revoke the ePCR software systems compliance approval and require the ePCR software system to complete the GEMSIS Validation (Compatibility) Process.
- In the event the ePCR software vendor is no longer current as a NEMSIS compliant “Collect Data” software system for the NEMSIS version that is currently active in Georgia, the ePCR software vendor shall notify the EMS Agency and the Department immediately.

NEMESIS v3.5 Transition Overview

Georgia's v3.5 Transition Overview

- GEMISIS v3.5
 - Total of 293 Validation Rules
 - 97 rules from v3.4 converted to v3.5
 - 14 new rules created to include v3.5 changed elements and values
 - 182 current rules updated to include v3.5 changed elements and values
- Phase 1:
 - Transition of GEMISIS Elite agencies to v3.5 (July 2023)
 - GEMISIS Elite Validation (Compatibility) Process (ePCR Vendor Compliance Testing)
- Phase 2: Transition of agencies using 3rd party ePCR agencies.
- All EMS agencies transitioned to v3.5 by November 1st
- All states must be fully transitioned to v3.5 before 2024

v3.5 New Elements Added (11) - Required

Element Number	Element Name	National	State
eDisposition.27	Unit Disposition	National	State
eSituation.20	Reason for Interfacility Transfer/Medical Transport	National	State
eArrest.20	Who First Initiated CPR	National	State
eArrest.21	Who First Applied the AED	National	State
eArrest.22	Who First Defibrillated the Patient	National	State
eDisposition.28	Patient Evaluation/Care	National	State
eDisposition.29	Crew Disposition	National	State
eDisposition.30	Transport Disposition	National	State
eDisposition.31	Reason for Refusal/Release		
eDisposition.32	Level of Care Provided per Protocol	National	State
eSituation.19	Justification for Transfer or Encounter		State

v3.5 Additional New Elements (11) - Optional

Element Number	Element Name	Usage
ePatient.22	Alternate Home Residence	Optional
eTimes.17	Unit Arrived at Staging Area Date/Time	Optional
ePayment.59	Insurance Company Phone Number	Optional
ePayment.60	Date of Birth of the Insured	Optional
eArrest.10	Therapeutic Hypothermia by EMS	Optional
eHistory.20	Current Medication Frequency	Optional
eExam.22	Lung Assessment Finding Location	Optional
eExam.23	Lung Assessment	Optional
eExam.24	Chest Assessment Finding Location	Optional
eExam.25	Chest Assessment	Optional
eScene.24	First Other EMS or Public Safety Agency at Scene to Provide Patient Care	Optional

Additional Fields Added for v3.5

- Additional data elements added to Georgia State Data Set.
 - Stoke Scale Severity Score (itVitals.096)
 - Alternative Disposition Offer and Result (et3Disposition.01)
- Field added to State GEMISIS Elite System
 - Another Provider on scene (non-EMS) (supplemental question)
 - Telehealth/Nurse Navigator, etc. programs

New Custom Values – Coming Soon!

- Custom values will be implemented in the next Schematron update.

Element Number	Element Name	Values
eDisposition.29	Crew Disposition	Initiated Primary Care and Transferred to Another Provider on Scene (non-EMS) <i>ET3 NEMESIS Custom Value</i>
eDisposition.29	Crew Disposition	Initiated Primary Care and Transferred to Telehealth Provider <i>ET3 NEMESIS Custom Value</i>
eOutcome.03 and .04	External Report ID/Number Type	GA custom value to record Armband Number – coming soon

Georgia Schematron and Validation Rules

- The Department's goal is to publish a new Schematron File, Validation Rules, and/or an updated Facilities List every six months.
- In the event the Department issues an emergency update to the Schematron file, the ePCR software vendor shall update and apply the Schematron file as soon as possible and in a timely manner.

Expectations of ePCR Vendors for v3.5 Transition

- Review the new two data policies published by OEMST and confirm the vendor is compliant with these two policies (available on DPH EMS Website).
- Must complete the GEMISIS Compliant ePCR Vendor Software System (Compliance Testing) no later than **September 1, 2023**.
 - If the ePCR Vendor is not Georgia approved by the time the EMS Agency needs to transition, EMS Agencies will have to change ePCR software systems.
- Successfully apply the new GA v3.5 Schematron File, Validation Rules, and Facility List (available on GA NEMISIS page).
 - Apply National, State and Custom data elements, values Pertinent Negatives and Not Values as required in validation rules.
 - Apply the NEMISIS Suggested and Defined Lists codes for eInjury.01, eSituation.11-.12, eScene.09, eSituation.09-.10, eMedications.03, and eProcedures.03
- Communicate with OEMST about your transition plan or any other changes.

Reminders for ePCR Vendors

- Georgia does not accept DEM Files.
- Must export all ePCRs within 24 hours of call completion
- XML Files should be sent on a continuous basis throughout the day – do not bulk send multiple files at once point during the day.
- Must resubmit any ePCRs that have been updated or failed from previous submissions.
- Must allow medics to select appropriate NOT Values (NV) and Pertinent Negatives (PN) as specified in the GA State Validation Rules.
 - Just because NEMESIS allows Not Values and Pertinent Negatives on certain data elements does not mean GA allows them.
- Must NOT show “Not Recorded”, “Not Reporting”, or “Unknowns” for medics to select
- Must NOT default values for the medics or agencies
- In the event the Department issues an emergency update to the Schematron File we expect the vendor to update and apply it as soon as possible in a timely manner.

Current Issues with Validation Rules

Current Issues with Validation Rules

- Trauma Center Criteria (eInjury.03) is required on possible injuries – Error Rule
- Recent Travel (eHistory.901) is required on all patients. You must enter an answer or a pertinent negative – Error Rule
- Recent Exposure to Infectious Disease (eHistory.903) is required on all patients. You must enter an answer or a pertinent negative – Error Rule
- Destination Team Pre-Arrival Alert or Activation (eDisposition.24) is required on all 911 and interfacility transports to hospitals – Error Rule
- These rules are converted to v3.5

Current Fields (elements) with Confusion/Changes

Current Fields (elements) with Confusion/Changes

- Type of Service Requested (eResponse.05)
- Type of Destination (eDisposition.21)
- Hospital In-Patient Destination (eDisposition.22)
- Hospital Capability (eDisposition.23)
- Destination Team Pre-Arrival Alert or Activation (eDisposition.24)
- Date/Time of Symptom Onset (eSituation.01)
- Date/Time Last Known Well (eSituation.18)
- Destination Patient Transfer of Care Date/Time (eTimes.12)

Contacts

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DPH EMS Website: <https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/gemsis>

Questions? And Open Discussion

