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Policy No. OEMS-VC-2023-001

APPROVAL:		April 10, 2023
	Michael Johnson, EMS Director	Date

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose 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.

2.0 AUTHORITY

The Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of EMS and Trauma, EMS Data Compliance and Reporting Policy is published under the authority of the Department and in compliance with the following:

2.1 Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A):

2.1.1 O.C.G.A § 31-11-6; and

2.1.2 O.C.G.A § 31-11-9

2.2 EMS Rules and Regulations:

2.2.1 511-9-2-.11;

2.2.2 511-9-2-.14; and

2.2.3 511-9-2-.18

3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.1 "Approved" - means acceptable by the Department based on its determination as to conformance with existing standards.

3.2 "Approved ePCR Vendor" - means an electronic patient care reporting software system that has met the minimal requirements of "ePCR Data Compatibility and Compliance Requirements" policy and is current and approved by the Department.

3.3 "Department" - means the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma.

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- 3.4** “Emergency Medical Services Agency or EMS Agency” - means an air ambulance agency, ground ambulance agency, medical first responder agency, or neonatal transport agency licensed by the Department.
- 3.5** “GEMSIS Elite” - means the Department’s electronic patient care reporting system.
- 3.6** “Medic” - means an individual who is currently licensed by the Department as an Emergency Medical Technician-Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Cardiac Technician, or Paramedic.
- 3.7** “NEMSIS” - means the National EMS Information System used to standardize, collect, store, and share EMS data from US states and territories.
- 3.8** “Patient Care Report or Prehospital Care Report or PCR” - means the required written or electronic data set that is submitted to the Department or to an acute care facility by an EMS Agency regarding each request for an EMS response. The required data set shall include all data elements specified by the Department.
- 3.9** “Response” - means any request for emergent or non-emergent EMS services by the 911 dispatch system, private citizen, dispatch agency, or other acute care facilities, hospital, or other means of request.

4.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all EMS agencies currently licensed by the Department or seeking licensure from the Department that chooses to use an ePCR vendor software system other than the Department supplied GEMSIS Elite software system to submit EMS responses as required by DPH Rules and Regulations 511-9-2.

5.0 POLICY

All licensed EMS agencies must utilize an ePCR software system that has been approved by the Department.

- 5.1** The Department provides a standard and mobile ePCR software system to all EMS agencies at no cost.
- 5.2** The EMS agency may utilize an ePCR software system from an approved ePCR vendor that is purchased at the EMS agency’s expense. The EMS agency assumes all responsibility for any cost and maintenance of the software system and compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Mandatory Reporting Requirements for EMS agencies.

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6.0 GEMSIS Compliant ePCR Software System Requirements

- 6.1** Approval as a GEMSIS Compliant ePCR Software System will only be granted by the Department to the ePCR version tested by a software vendor after; the software vendor has demonstrated that the respective version software system complies and maintains compliance with the requirements listed in this policy.
- 6.2** Approval as a GEMSIS Compliant ePCR Software System for the software version tested shall be effective from the date of issuance as long as the ePCR software remains compliant per this policy.
- 6.3** Maintain up-to-date contact information for the vendor’s primary and secondary contact with the Department.
- 6.4** All ePCR software vendors shall correctly apply the Schematron file, validation rules, custom data elements, and facilities codes before the implementation date as defined by Department.
- 6.5** 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.
- 6.6** In the event the Department determines data issues related to the ePCR software system that cannot be corrected with the ePCR software system, the ePCR software vendor must revalidate the ePCR software system and successfully complete the Department’s GEMSIS Elite Validation (Compatibility) Process as directed by the Department.
- 6.7** If a new NEMSIS 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 GEMSIS Elite Validation (Compatibility) Process for ePCR Software Systems.
- 6.8** All ePCRs for an EMS agency shall be submitted automatically using the web service credentials supplied by the Department for the specific EMS agency as requested by the EMS agency’s Data Manager or Authorized Agent.
- 6.9** Successfully complete the Department’s GEMSIS Validation (Compatibility) Process for ePCR Software Systems.
- 6.10** ePCR Software System Requirements
 - 6.10.1** Must collect all NEMSIS and State custom required elements and codes as defined by the approved Georgia State Data Set.

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6.10.2 Must import all ePCRs on a continuous basis individually and not in bulk.

6.10.3 Must export all ePCRs to the Department specified data repository within 24 hours of call completion.

6.10.4 Must resubmit any ePCRs that have been updated from previous submissions.

6.10.5 Must resubmit any failed ePCR submissions after appropriate corrections have been made by the EMS agency.

6.10.6 ePCR software system must show all Department "Error" and "Warning" validation rule messages to the medic within the ePCR.

6.10.7 ePCR software system shall not allow EMS agencies to go around Department validation requirements. Examples:

6.10.7.1 Not allow EMS agencies or medics to enter facility codes and/or names not approved by the Department.

6.10.7.2 ePCR 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.

6.10.7.3 ePCR software system shall not prepopulate answers in the ePCR. If an agency prepopulates a field, this field must be visible for the medic to see.

6.10.7.4 ePCR software system shall not show "Not Recorded" or "Not Reporting" as a value option in the ePCR for medics to select.

6.10.7.5 ePCR software system must allow medics to select appropriate NOT Values (NV) and Pertinent Negatives (PN) as specified in the Georgia State validation rules.

6.10.7.6 Prior to ePCR submission to the Department, all Department validation rules must be satisfied.

6.11 GEMSIS Validation (Compatibility) Process for ePCR Software Systems

6.11.1 Submit an application for approval as a GEMSIS Compliant ePCR vendor Software System for the respective software vendor in a manner as specified by the Department.

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- 6.11.2** The Department will issue the ePCR software vendor a web service URL for each software version, a test Agency Name and ID, an Account Username, and a Password for importing test cases.
- 6.11.3** If the ePCR software vendor has multiple software versions, all test cases must be submitted for each software version.
- 6.11.4** Demonstrate the ability to collect all NEMSIS and State custom required elements and codes as defined by the approved Georgia State Data Set and successfully pass the Department Schematron file validation published on the NEMSIS website at www.nemsis.org.
- 6.11.5** The ePCR software vendor must submit all (7) test cases as provided by the Department to GEMSIS Elite utilizing the web service credentials issued by the Department as described below:
 - 6.11.5.1** 1-Cardiac Arrest with ROSC
 - 6.11.5.2** 1-Stemi/MI
 - 6.11.5.3** 1-Stroke with positive stroke screen
 - 6.11.5.4** 1-Multi-system Trauma
 - 6.11.5.5** 1-Medical
 - 6.11.5.6** 1-Interfacility/Medical Transport
 - 6.11.5.7** 1-Non-Transport (DOA)
- 6.11.6** All submissions will be validated by the Department for the timeliness, completeness, accuracy of elements, mapping on import, and uniformity.
- 6.11.7** The ePCR software vendor must resolve all state Schematron assertion severity levels of "Warning", "Error", or "Fatal" when testing against the Department Schematron files.
- 6.11.8** Any inaccuracies submitted by the ePCR vendor software must be resolved before the Department's approval.
- 6.11.9** Once compatibility testing has been completed and approved by the Department, the ePCR vendor will be listed on the state DPH website, and the vendor will be able to import data to the Department on behalf of the EMS agency(s).

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6.12 Agencies Utilizing Non-complaint ePCR Software Systems Data Submissions to the Department

6.12.1 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. The Department may deactivate web service credentials until the issues are resolved. The EMS agency is still responsible for meeting all Data Compliance and Reporting Requirements per DPH Rule 511-9-2 and DPH Policy OEMS-DM-2023-001 and may be required to submit responses by direct entry into the GEMSIS Elite system until the issues are resolved.

6.12.2 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.

6.12.3 In the event an ePCR software vendor becomes non-compliant with NEMSIS, the EMS agency must report data through GEMSIS Elite until the ePCR software vendor regains compliance or a compliant ePCR software vendor is chosen.

7.0 RELATED FORMS

7.1 DPH Policy OEMS-DM-2023-001



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8.0 REVISION HISTORY

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