Begin NOW!

We know the field of emergency care is rapidly requiring electronic patient records. Quality improvement is just one reason for this transition. Our goal is to assist you in making that transition.

Step 1:
If you currently use existing electronic patient records

- Contact your software vendor to verify NEMSIS **version 3** compliance and set up automatic daily, weekly, or monthly data export to WEMSIS via web service.

Step 2:
Contact us

- Email us at wemsis@doh.wa.gov and we will create an account for you.
- We will ask you to provide information about yourself. This includes your role in the service, contact info, etc.
- We will ask you to provide information on your service such as service ID, service info, vendor, etc.
- We will provide instructions on how to register for a SecureAccess Washington (SAW) account. The new WEMSIS Web site is https://www.wemsis.org/Elite

Step 3:
Familiarize yourself with WEMSIS

- You will find ImageTrend, the software provider of WEMSIS, helpful. They provide support, comprehensive manuals, and training videos.
- Ask us. We provider webinar training for groups or one-on-one upon request.

PROVIDING SERVICE THROUGH WEMSIS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is WEMSIS?
The *Washington Emergency Medical Services Information System*, WEMSIS, is the state's prehospital data repository for electronic patient care records (ePCR).

What prehospital data elements are collected?
WEMSIS is based on a national standard, NEMSIS, for EMS data collection and reporting. While specific emphasis is placed on some data elements, WEMSIS has the capacity to store all NEMSIS elements.

Why use WEMSIS?
Electronic prehospital data collection assists service, county, region, and state efforts to monitor, evaluate, and assess field experiences, patient care, and the EMS system as a whole.

What does it cost me to participate in WEMSIS?
Access and submission to WEMSIS is free. Services already using NEMSIS-compliant software to collect data can export or have their software vendor export data to WEMSIS.

How do I participate in WEMSIS?
WEMSIS is a web-based program. We provide many services access to a EMS/fire service account to begin collecting data electronically. Other services using their own NEMSIS compliant software export data to WEMSIS. Follow the three steps outlined under Begin NOW!

Washington State Department of Health

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This publication can be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please call 360-236-2867 for information.

www.doh.wa.gov/wemsis
e-mail: wemsis@doh.wa.gov
phone: 360-236-2867

WEMSIS
WASHINGTON EMS INFORMATION SYSTEM

The *Washington Emergency Medical Services information system*, WEMSIS, is the state's prehospital data repository for electronic patient care records (ePCR).

Participation in WEMSIS supports:

- Description of statewide incidents of medical and injury emergencies
- Identification of quality improvement measures
- Evaluation of measures for process and policy improvement
- Internal and external benchmarking
- Local and regional leadership through data competency and evidence-based decision making

Electronic prehospital data gives instant access to existing records. It allows agencies, counties, and regions to identify best practices and improve EMS response and patient outcomes. Likewise, many services give access to their destination hospitals to enhance the continuity of care.
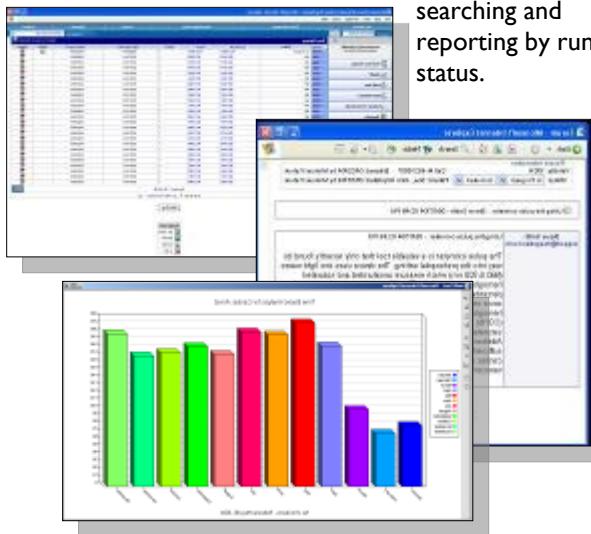
We need your support and participation to ensure our EMS system reflects the spirit of care we aspire to provide.

WASHINGTON STATE
EMS INFORMATION SYSTEM

Quality Improvement

Quality improvement (QI) exceeds mere data validity testing. It helps promote evidence-based decision making. QI and its measures allow evaluation at the local, county, regional, and state level. With appropriate permissions, you can track, review, and comment on rescue service incidents or runs.

- WEMSIS offers several QI reporting tools to quickly review and assess the quality of each run entered.
- To assist your QI process, you can create run status categories to label individual runs as needed. You can label runs in progress, completed, submitted for review, needs review, reviewed/sign off, billed, etc. You can use these categories for searching and reporting by run status.

- WEMSIS QI allows users reviewing runs to issue a note similar to an email to prompt the intended individual on their next login.
- As WEMSIS carries and supports these notes, there is an unlimited number of notes that can be appended to a single run. This allows multiple users to comment as needed.
- WEMSIS offers run control. You can lock runs from further editing in cases where runs have been submitted or billed. Locking and unlocking runs can be a manual or scheduled task.

- Below are some WEMSIS standard QI report areas:
    - Audits
    - Billing
    - Response/run time
    - Exams performed
    - Intubation performed
    - Medication provided
    - Procedures performed
    - Runs per month
    - WEMSIS also supports creating custom reports for your service needs.
- Create alerts to get notified by email or text message when a specific event occurs.

FAQs Continued

…continued from back center.

Which software vendors are WEMSIS compliant?
All NEMSIS compliant vendors are WEMSIS compliant. Be sure to ask potential vendors if they require additional fees to submit your data via web service to the state. We launched an upgraded (version 3) system in February 2015. The older system will be discontinued on January 1, 2016. To submit your ePCR data to the new system, your software must be NEMSIS version 3 compliant. For a list of NEMSIS version 3 compliant vendors, visit the following Web site:
http://www.nemsis.org/v3/compliantSoftware.html

Can WEMSIS report both EMS and fire data?
Yes. Services around the state are using WEMSIS for both prehospital and NFIRS data collection.

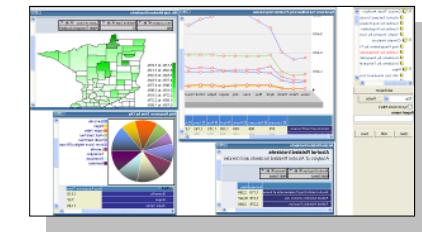**How do county MPDs or destination hospitals access data in WEMSIS?**
We developed additional permission levels to accommodate and enhance such data access. All MPDs may register for a WEMSIS account for access to all county data. A service may create accounts for a destination hospital at any time. Many services are currently benefiting from such partnerships.

PROVIDING SERVICE THROUGH WEMSIS

Data Analysis

ImageTrend offers reporting tools to allow visual analytics not normally achieved with conventional report generation methods.

- With these tools, you can analyze data in different views with multiple relationships. It allows for dragging and dropping of columns, rearranging of data views, and data drill-down while creating dynamic charts and graphs.
- This gives the user flexibility in how to view and analyze data.
- You can use data analysis to identify trends, make predictions, and perform assessments.
- Data can be readily exported for portability and reporting in Microsoft Excel.

Security

Application Securities
- Secure user login
- Password encryption
- Password requirements
- Login expirations
- Page access checking
- SSL server certificate
- User status (active / inactive)
- Individual challenge questions

User Securities
- Multi-factor authentication
- View / block patient identifiable information
- Access to run report
- Export security