



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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www.nj.gov/health

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

HEATHER HOWARD
Commissioner

September 30, 2008

Dear EMS Colleague,

It is with great pleasure that the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) would like to offer the on line electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) program to your agency **free of charge**. On April 1, 2006, the Office of Emergency Medical Services initiated an electronic Patient Care Reporting pilot program. Over the course of the pilot program, more than 100 Advanced Life Support Services, and Basic Life Support Services, across the state voluntarily began utilizing our ePCR vendor, EMSCharts. The next phase of the program focuses on expanding the use of the ePCR program to all volunteer and licensed Basic Life Support Services in New Jersey.

In late 2006, a Joint Resolution of our Senate and Assembly directed the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to conduct a study of the EMS system. Two of the major recommendations from this study were that OEMS create an EMS database utilizing the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) minimum data set and that OEMS create a statewide patient care report that must be left at the hospitals. This initiative addresses both recommendations.

Funding for this project has been made possible through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Department of Health and Senior Services. OEMS will cover all basic charges incurred for the ePCR program including, but not limited to software licensing charges, per chart costs, as well as chart delivery to the hospitals. However, the purchase of computer hardware and equipment is the responsibility of your agency. OEMS will provide EMSCharts regional training programs for your agency.

EMSCharts is 100% HIPAA compliant. The only agencies that will have direct access to your patient care reports are the hospital that received the patient and the members of your agency who you specify. Statistical data collected will be entered into the state's Crash Data Warehouse, where it will be joined with data from the New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Department of Transportation, and local police agency crash records. Collected data is then submitted to the NEMSIS for analysis and comparison to other states. More information about NEMSIS can be found on the Internet at www.NEMSIS.org. New Jersey is one of the first ten states in the nation to meet federal reporting standards and provide data to NEMSIS.

This program will afford your agency a host of benefits including:

- ✓ 24 hour on line "anywhere" access to your agency's patient care reports
- ✓ Immediate delivery of the patient care record to the receiving hospital
- ✓ Real time analysis of your agency's activity
- ✓ Multiple custom reporting features for your agency's data
- ✓ Rapid implementation and easy installation
- ✓ Customizable and user-friendly patient care reports
- ✓ 24/7 technical support center

Your participation is vital to making the State of New Jersey a national leader in state-wide electronic patient care reporting and EMS data collection as we continue to provide the highest quality care to our patients. Our goal is for 100 % of all EMS providers to participate in this ePCR initiative. For further information regarding this project, or to register for the program, please contact Tim Seplaki or Don Roberts in the Office of Emergency Medical Services at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,



Karen Halupke, R.N., M.Ed.
Director, Emergency Medical Services