



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
Office of Emergency Medical Services  
99 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA 02111

CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

Tel: 617-753-7300  
[www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

MEMORANDUM

TO: All MA Ambulance Services  
CC: EMCAB Members, ePCR Software Vendors  
FROM: Michael Kass, Director  
DATE: October 9, 2015  
RE: Upcoming MATRIS Migration to NEMSIS Version 3

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify ambulance services and vendors that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (Department) is planning to transition the Massachusetts Ambulance Trip Record Information System (MATRIS), from being based on the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Version 2 data set, to the NEMSIS Version 3 standard within the coming year.

The MATRIS data elements set out in Administrative Requirement (AR) 5-403 are currently based on the NEMSIS Version 2 (V2) standard, developed in 2005. The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center, in collaboration with local and state EMS, federal partners, vendors, and industry experts, has developed a major revision, using lessons learned from experience with V2 and industry best practices/standards (e.g. incorporating ICD-10 codes) to create NEMSIS Version 3 (V3). This comprehensive initiative was fueled by the need to improve data quality, enhance flexibility for state needs, and position the NEMSIS standard for integration with the Health Level 7 (HL7) standard, facilitating data exchange throughout the continuum of care.

NEMSIS V3 was released in 2011 and ePCR software vendors have been working with the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center, developing new versions of their EMS data collection software that are compliant with the V3 standard. Some vendors have achieved NEMSIS V3 compliance and others are in process. The vendor compliance status can be found on the NEMSIS website [here](#). Services must submit their EMS data to MATRIS using software that has completed the NEMSIS V3 compliance process successfully.

The Department is beginning work on migrating MATRIS to NEMSIS V3. The Department and Massachusetts services have learned many lessons since MATRIS was launched on December 15, 2010, and these lessons will inform the implementation of NEMSIS V3. The Department will develop a revised data dictionary based on NEMSIS V3 with input from users over the coming months. In order to implement this change, the Department will propose amendments to [AR 5-403](#), and send it out for a 60-day ambulance service licensee comment period. The proposed AR will include a proposed effective date for implementation. There will be a period during which services may continue to submit NEMSIS V2 data, and then a final cutover date, after which all services will be required to submit data in accordance with the new standard. Many services are using software vendors that have software which is already NEMSIS V3 compliant, or are on target to achieve such compliance. Please note that the MATRIS system cannot accept NEMSIS Version 3 data until the V3 implementation date.

The Department will provide more communication with timelines, and offer training, as the transition to NEMSIS V3 moves forward. Thank you for your continued contributions towards fulfilling our collective goal of providing high quality EMS to all Commonwealth residents and visitors. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ridgely Ficks, MATRIS Data Manager, at [ridgely.ficks@state.ma.us](mailto:ridgely.ficks@state.ma.us).