



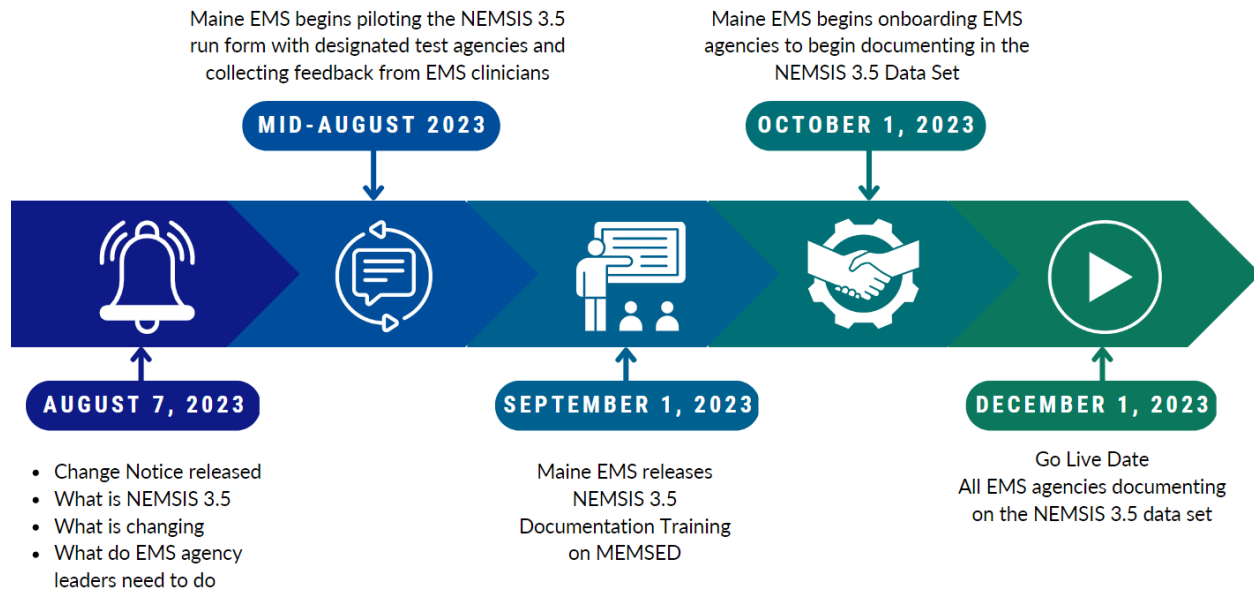
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Change Notice		
Notice #	Title	Date Issued
#2023-08-07-01	MEFIRS Transition to NEMSIS 3.5	August 7, 2023
Superseded	Released By	System Impacted
N/A	Maine EMS	MEFIRS
Implementation Date	Full Implementation by December 1, 2023	

NEMSIS 3.5 Transition Timeline



What is NEMSIS 3.5?

NEMSIS 3.5 is a version update to the National EMS Information Systems (NEMSIS) data standard for EMS patient care reports (ePCRs). While the changes coming in 3.5 are not as sweeping as those from NEMSIS 2 to NEMSIS 3, this transition will require a coordinated effort between Maine Emergency Medical Services (MEMS), Maine's EMS agencies, and our ePCR vendor. The primary goal of this change is to improve the ability and flexibility to fully describe an EMS event in a way we could not do in previous NEMSIS dataset versions.

Watch for updates, training materials, and resources from MEMS, including emails, webinars, and a MEMSED course.

- Excellence • Support • Collaboration • Integrity •

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What are the most significant changes?

- **Validation Rules** – All validation rules have been updated. Validation rules are tools we use in MEFIRS to ensure data completeness and accuracy.
 - **New Validation Rule Type** – There are now two validation rule types; **Errors**, which will flag red, and **Warnings**, which will flag orange.
 - Validation errors flagging red correspond to validation rules with a point value assigned to the rule.
 - Warning messages will flag orange but have no point value assigned to them; we are using those rules where there may be an inconsistency, and we want to draw your attention to field.
- **Incident/Patient Disposition (eDisposition.12) Retires**
 - Incident/Patient Disposition does not fully capture the nuances of EMS interactions with patients. As a result, NEMSIS replaced the Incident/Patient Disposition with four separate fields (Unit Disposition, Patient Evaluation/Care, Crew Disposition, and Transport Disposition). Unit Disposition will be required for every incident record and the other three fields may be required depending on the nature of the call.
- **Type of Service Requested is updated.**
 - Values for "911 Response (Scene)," "Intercept," and "Mutual Aid" have been relabeled to start with "Emergency Response" to identify these options more easily. "Interfacility Transport" was relabeled to "Hospital-to-Hospital Transfer" to be more accurate and better to track resource utilization at local and state levels and support reimbursement levels. "Medical Transport" was relabeled to "Other Routine Medical Transport" to cover any other medical transports, such as to and from dialysis, doctor appointments, return home, or nursing homes.
- **eResponse.07 - Unit Transport and Equipment Capability is a new field**
 - The transport and equipment capabilities of the EMS Unit, which responded to this specific EMS event.
 - Element relabeled from "Primary Role of Unit" to "Unit Transport and Equipment Capability" to better reflect the field's purpose and to capture the data previously captured by the retired field, eResponse.15: "Level of Care of This Unit."

What Do EMS Agency Leaders Need to Do Next?

- **Billing/Reimbursement** – Contact your billing company to ensure they can process claims with the new data set. The following billing companies have confirmed with Maine EMS that they are ready to process submissions with 3.5 data.
 - Central Maine Cost recovery,
 - Comstar,
 - Medical Reimbursement Services,
 - Northern Light Medical Transport, and
 - Quick Med Claims.

- **Integrations** – Contact any other integration accounts you may have [e.g., computer-aided dispatch (CAD) vendors, Handtevy, Image Trend (Slate, Aware, etc.)]. If you are unaware of who to contact regarding your specific integration accounts, Image Trend will be able to assist you. You can contact Image Trend Support at support@imagnetrend.com:
- **Form/Quality Assurance and Improvement Rule Revisions** – Local EMS agency leadership will need to update the items below to reflect the NEMSIS 3.5 data elements *if there are agency-specific items*. MEMS will update all the native MEFIRS forms to include NEMSIS 3.5 data elements, where appropriate; however, if your agency has developed custom forms and resources, each of those items will need to be updated to reflect the new dataset. You can identify custom items in use by your agency by going to the *Tools* tab in MEFIRS, clicking on the respective manager tool, and searching for any forms with the *Source* listed as your agency.
 - Print Forms,
 - CQI Forms,
 - CQI Rules,
 - Dynamic/Situation Tools, and
 - Validation Rules (only applicable to those services who have purchased additional validation rule capacity from Image Trend directly).
- **Report Writer Reports** – Report Writer reports using Incident/Patient Disposition (eDisposition.12) as a column, filter, or criteria will need to be updated. MEMS is working collaboratively with Image Trend to identify reports that include this field. More information will be shared in the coming weeks through the Open Forums and other communications.
- **Stay Informed** – Attend the [Weekly MEFIRS Open Forums](#) every Tuesday at 2:00 P.M. through November 28, 2023.

NEMSIS (National EMS Information System) requirements drive many of the changes in this document. Maine EMS looks forward to continuing to work with our stakeholders to improve the quality and functionality of our data collection. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming changes, please do not hesitate to contact Jason Oko at 207-626-3863 or by email at EMS.data@maine.gov.