**EMS SECTION HIGHLIGHTS**

**October 2014**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### UPCOMING EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

### Next Meeting: January 21-23, 2015

In conjunction with Fire East/Daytona Beach

The Advisory Council and Constituency Group meetings will be held at the Ocean Center Convention & Event Center in conjunction with Fire-Rescue East. For more information regarding *Fire Rescue East 2014*, please visit the Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association’s website at: [www.ffca.org](http://www.ffca.org).

Room reservation information will be available soon.

**NEW EMPLOYEES**

We are happy to announce that the new Administrative Assistant II is Bethany Lowe. Bethany provides direct administrative support to the Section Administrator of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) section and is responsible for coordinating the EMS Advisory Council and EMS constituency group quarterly meetings. Bethany can be contacted by e-mail at [Bethany.Lowe@flhealth.gov](mailto:Bethany.Lowe@flhealth.gov) or by telephone at (850) 245-4055.

We are also happy to announce Amber Haynie as the new Senior Clerk for the 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator (PST) Program. She can be reached by e-mail at [Amber.Haynie@flhealth.gov](mailto:Amber.Haynie@flhealth.gov) or by telephone at (850) 245-4440 ext., 3332.

**EMS EDUCATION, LICENSURE & COMPLIANCE SECTION**

There are 67 schools offering emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic training programs. In addition to our EMS education programs and EMS provider agencies, there are 56 continuing education providers offering 1,450 continuing education courses.

**TRAINING & EDUCATION**

The 2014 certification exam statistics are as follows:

* There are 2,832 EMT first time test-takers so far this year with a 75 percent pass rate.
* There are 1,285 paramedic first time test-takers so far this year with an 84 percent pass rate.
* Florida currently has 37,112 actively certified EMTs and 30,156 paramedics, totaling to 67,268 of actively-certified EMS personnel.

**EMS PROVIDER LICENSURE**

There are 272 licensed EMS providers with 4,588 permitted vehicles.

Provider agency types: Permitted Vehicles:

173 ALS Transport 2,437

8 BLS Transport 440

60 ALS Non-Transport 1,587

31 Air Ambulance (fixed and rotary) 124

**911 PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS (911 PST)**

There are currently 153 state-approved PST training programs in Florida. The PST certification examination was offered 99 times in 2014. The number of individuals tested was 1,108 and 816 passed on their first attempt. Since the program’s inception, there have been 8,896 certified PSTs. The updated PST curriculum was put into effect on July 1, 2014.

**STATEWIDE PLANNING**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)**

**FREE Pediatric Education Program and/or Resources**

Florida EMSC is offering FREE pediatric/neonatal continuing education courses and resources within the state this grant year. If you are interested in having a pediatric/neonatal education course offered at your agency or are in need of pediatric educational resources, please contact Bonnie Newsome, EMSC Program Manager. The following CE courses/programs are available to eligible agencies:

* **Pediatric Transport Safety**

Focuses on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s best practice recommendations to ensure pediatric patients are safely transported in emergency ground ambulances. Agencies who receive this training from FLEMSC will also receive two (2) Pedi-Mate innovative restraint systems for pediatric transportation.

* **Friday Night Lights Out - Pediatric Mild Traumatic Brain Injury**

Pediatric head injuries are under-recognized and undertreated particularly in terms of long-term effects and return to play recommendations. The EMS providers need to be able to identify concerning features for long-term damage and make the appropriate recommendation for returning to play for children with acute head injuries. For a copy of the *Friday Night Lights Out, EMS Education: Pediatric Concussion in Sports* DVD contact Bonnie Newsome at the e-mail listed below.

* **Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP)**

PEPP represents a complete source of prehospital medical information for the emergency care of infants and children. Developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, PEPP is an exciting curriculum designed to teach prehospital professionals how to better assess and manage ill or injured children.

* **Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)**

PALS is a classroom, video-based, instructor-led course that uses a series of simulated pediatric emergencies to reinforce the important concepts of a systematic approach to pediatric assessment, basic life support, PALS treatment algorithms, effective resuscitation and team dynamics. The goal of the PALS course is to improve the quality of care provided to seriously ill or injured children, resulting in improved outcomes.

* **S.T.A.B.L.E.**

S.T.A.B.L.E. is the most widely distributed and implemented neonatal education program to focus exclusively on the post-resuscitation/pre-transport stabilization care of sick infants. Based on a mnemonic to optimize learning, retention and recall of information, S.T.A.B.L.E. stands for the six assessment and care modules in the program: Sugar; Temperature; Airway; Blood Pressure; Lab Work; and Emotional Support. A seventh module, Quality Improvement, stresses the professional responsibility of improving and evaluating the care provided to sick infants.

* **Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)**

NRP is an educational program jointly sponsored with the American Heart Association (AHA). The course has been designed to teach an evidence-based approach to resuscitation of the newborn to hospital staff who care for newborns at the time of delivery, including physicians, nurses and respiratory therapists.

* **Pediatric/Neonatal Review**

This course can be customized to meet the specific needs of your agency.

Costs associated with the above-mentioned CE courses will be covered in full by the Florida EMSC partnership grant when possible. To find out if your agency is eligible to receive the equipment and training, contact the EMSC program staff.

Additionally, EMSC may be able to support an education program at your agency that you are already planning, provide educational materials and other pediatric resources. Contact the EMSC program staff directly for more information or with specific requests.

**EMSC Contact Information**

Florida Department of Health

Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight

Emergency Medical Services for Children

Bonnie Newsome, EMSC Program Manager

4042 Bald Cypress Way

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A22 (Mailing)

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1722

(850) 245-4440, ext. 2686

(850) 488-9408 / Fax

Bonnie.Newsome@flhealth.gov

**EMSC FEDERAL PARTNERHSIP GRANT**

On February 2, 2014 the Department received a Notice of Grant Award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for $130,000 in support of the EMSC Federal Partnership Grant. The new grant year began on March 1, 2014 and ends on February 28, 2015.

The primary goals of the grant are: to improve and expand the degree to which Florida EMS has ensured the operational capacity to provide prehospital pediatric emergency care; to improve the capacity of Florida to ensure that essential resources and protocols are available in facilities where children receive care; to improve and expand the degree to which Florida has established permanence of EMSC in the Florida EMS system; and to improve and expand Florida’s capacity to reduce and ameliorate pediatric emergencies.

**COUNTY GRANTS (401.113(2) (a), FLORIDA STATUTES**

Effective July 25, we began accepting new county grant applications. Only county governments can receive these funds. Each county is eligible to receive exactly 45 percent of its own deposits into the state EMS Trust Fund. The money derives from specified traffic fine surcharges and no federal funds are involved.

Information regarding this grant, as well as the appointment package, can be found on the state EMS grant website.

**MATCHING GRANTS (401.113(2) (b), FLORIDA STATUTES**

We will begin accepting new matching grant applications in mid‑November. Details will be posted on the state EMS grant website beginning in November.

All public and private EMS organizations are eligible for these grants and may directly apply for them. In the past three years, we provided $6.8 million for 139 matching grants.

**INVESTIGATIONS & PROSECUTION**

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight (BEMO), Emergency Medical Services Section, Investigations Unit operates in conjunction with Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) to investigate complaints against EMTs and paramedics. EMS continues to investigate complaints against EMS providers, EMS training schools, 911 PSTs and/or 911 PST training schools.

Upon completion of the investigative process, all complaints filed against **Florida EMTs and paramedics** are prosecuted by Toby Schultz of the MQA Prosecution Service Unit, (who replaced Julia Forrester as of August 11, 2014). All complaints can be mailed to: Florida Department of Health, Medical Quality Assurance, Consumer Services Unit 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-75, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

Upon completion of the investigative process, all complaint files against **Florida EMS providers, EMS training schools and/or 911 PSTs and 911 PST training schools** are prosecuted by Caryl Kilinski of the Office of General Counsel. All complaints can be mailed to: Florida Department of Health, BEMO, EMS Section, Investigations Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A22, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1722.

For disciplinary information, please submit a written public record request to:

Florida Department of Health c/o: Public Records Custodian

Office of the General Counsel

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-02, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1702

Phone: (850) 245-4005 or Fax: (850) 410-1448

Or to submit a public record request online, e-mail: [PublicRecordsRequest@flhealth.gov](mailto:PublicRecordsRequest@flhealth.gov).

**Disciplinary actions taken for July-September 2014 are as follows:**

* 19 final orders
* 19 administrative complaints
* 18 closing orders
* 0 revocations
* 5 voluntary surrender of certificates

**INJURY PREVENTION**

Contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Administrator, Injury Prevention Section (IPS) at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2776 for further information.

**GOODBYE TO ELIZABETH WHITE**

Elizabeth retired on August 22 after more than 25 years working in public health and social services with the Departments of Health and Children and Families. Elizabeth most recently worked in the area of Child Drowning Prevention and her work on the WaterproofFL Campaign won the 2014 National Drowning Prevention Alliance Community Life Saver Award.We miss her greatly and wish her the best in her retirement with her husband. They are also the proud grandparents of a new granddaughter.

**GOODBYE TO LEILANI GRUENER**

After more than seven years with the Injury Prevention Section, Lani left to take a position within the Florida Department of Health’s Office of Communications as of August 29. We say goodbye with mixed feelings as this is a great opportunity for her, but she will also be greatly missed by fellow employees and the stakeholder members of the injury prevention state plan goal team #2 Collaboration.

**WELCOME MONICA MCKENZIE**

The Injury Prevention Section through a competitive process applied in FY 2013-2014 and was recently awarded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) assignee (salary paid by CDC) for a two year assignment. Monica joined the IPS staff in October 2014.

Ms. McKenzie began pursuing a Master’s in Public Health at Georgia State University’s School of Public Health, and was awarded the Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research (CoEx) Fellowship in 2013. As a graduate research assistant and fellow, she received training and mentoring in health disparities while assisting with research projects on HIV, childhood obesity and environmental health. She received her Bachelors of Science degree in Health Science at Georgia Southern University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and a Certified Group Fitness Instructor. She is also a member of the American Public Health Association and the Georgia Society of Public Health Education. Please welcome Ms. McKenzie to the IPS.

**WELCOME SUZANNE KELLY**

Suzanne will join the IPS staff on October 24 in the Planning Consultant position that Elizabeth White recently retired from. Suzanne comes to us with more than 25 years of experience, most recently with the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Section in the Department of Health. Suzanne will be taking over the WaterproofFL and childhood drowning activities.

**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) GRANT**

The Injury Prevention Section (IPS) was one of 20 state health department injury prevention programs awarded a five year ($250,000/year) Core Violence and Injury Prevention (VIPP) grant by the CDC.

The grant provides funding for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the 2014–2016 Florida Injury Prevention State Plan and subsequent plans. Staff is currently finalizing the grant year-end programmatic and data reports that are due October 31, 2014.

**MINI GRANTS FOR CHILDHOOD DROWNING, DISTRACTED DRIVING AND OLDER ADULT FALLS PREVENTION**

The IPS announced the 2014–2015 awards for the Child Drowning, Distracted Driving and Older Adult Falls Prevention mini grants funded between $4,797.42 to $5,000.00 for a total of $94,779.42.

Six (6) mini grants were awarded for child drowning prevention for a total of $3000.00, seven (7) mini grants were awarded for distracted driving for a total of $34,779.42 and six (6) mini grants were awarded for older adult falls prevention for a total of $30,000. Award recipients include county health departments, hospitals, YMCAs, police departments, city governments and the area agencies on aging.

The 2014–2015 mini grants will end by June 30, 2015. Currently funded mini grants began new activities August 1 for the fiscal year 2014–2015. These grants were made possible through the CDC VIPP Grant. This is the third year IPP has offered a mini grant opportunity to fund local agencies.

**FLORIDA INJURY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP (ICPG) MEETING**

The ICPG—previously known as Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council—meeting was cancelled for October 15–16, 2014 in Tampa, Florida due to budget restraints. A webinar will be held instead of a face-to face meeting. Additional information will be sent out when the webinar will be held.

**2014–2016 FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION STATE PLAN**

Vision: Florida: An injury-free state.

Mission: To reduce injury in Florida through leadership, education and policy.

Goal 1: Establish a sustainable infrastructure that provides leadership, funding, data, communication, policy and evaluation for injury prevention.

Goal 2: Based on emerging injury data trends, provide education and awareness through partnerships and collaboration.

Goal 3: Establish a collaborative effort to provide statewide direction and focus for fall-related injury prevention for Florida’s older adults.

Goal 4: Establish a collaborative effort to provide statewide direction and focus for child water safety and drowning prevention.

Goal 5: Establish a collaborative effort to support statewide direction and focus to prevent motor vehicle crash-related injuries from distracted driving.

**FLORIda BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN Partnership Council Meeting**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has established a standing statewide “Partnership Council” on bicycle and pedestrian mobility. The council provides guidance to FDOT and its partner agencies on policy matters affecting the bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs of the State of Florida. The council includes key agency representatives and external stakeholders.

Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan of IPS serves as the Department of Health’s representative on this council. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2014 in Tallahassee, Florida. Additional information on the council is available at: [www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/bikeped](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/bikeped).

**Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition**

Florida’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition were formed to prioritize and implement the strategies identified in the Department of Transportation’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Safety Plan. This diverse group represents many agencies and organizations that have a vested interest in pedestrian and bicycle safety in Florida. The IPS participates as a member of this coalition.

Additional information on the coalition is available at: [www.alerttodayflorida.com](http://www.alerttodayflorida.com).

**FLORIDA TEEN SAFE DRIVING COALITION**

Planning is currently underway for the next meeting—early 2015 of the Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition (FTSDC).

National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 19-25, 2014.Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 14-18 year olds in the U.S. In fact, almost half of the teen drivers involved in a crash die. Yet, a recent survey shows that only 25 percent of parents have had a serious talk with their kids about the key components of driving (source: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6341a7.htm?s\_cid=mm6341a7\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6341a7.htm?s_cid=mm6341a7_e)).

For more information contact Mary Crew at: [Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov](mailto:Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov) or (850) 245-4982 or visit: [www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Teen-Drivers.shtm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Teen-Drivers.shtm) or [www.FloridaSADD.org](http://www.FloridaSADD.org).

**OLDER ADULT FALLS PREVENTION WORKGROUP**

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations and emergency room visits for Florida’s older adult population.

The workgroup planned for awareness activities during and including the month surrounding National Falls Prevention Awareness Day, on September 23, 2014. The Sixth Annual Older Adult Falls Prevention Webcast, *Strong Today, Falls Free® Tomorrow*, aired on September 10, 2014 starting at 10:00 a.m. EDT. Four (4) expert speakers discussed exercise, medications, mobile integrated health care and hip fractures/falls-related injuries. More information can be found at: [www.floridahealth.gov/prevention-safety-and-wellness/older-adult-falls-prevention/awareness-and-education/index.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/prevention-safety-and-wellness/older-adult-falls-prevention/awareness-and-education/index.html).

**SAFE KIDS FLORIDA**

Safe Kids Florida is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide. This is a worldwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages 1 to 19.

Safe Kids Florida consists of 12 local coalitions covering Broward, Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Dade, Hillsborough, Collier, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Flagler, Volusia and Seminole counties.For more information contact Mary Crew at: [Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov](mailto:Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov) or   
(850) 245-4982.

**SAFE MOBILITY FOR LIFE COALITION**

The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition’s mission is to improve the safety, access and mobility of Florida’s aging road users by developing a comprehensive strategic plan to reduce injuries and crashes among this vulnerable population. The IPS is a member of the DOT Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. The coalition meets quarterly. Mary Crew is the liaison on this coalition.

For additional information on the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, please visit: [www.safeandmobileseniors.org](http://www.safeandmobileseniors.org) and [www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Aging-Road-Users.shtm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Aging-Road-Users.shtm).

**WaterproofFL Child Drowning Prevention Campaign**

Child drowning prevention activities for the Department were coordinated through the WaterproofFL campaign again in the spring and summer of 2014.

Door alarms, brochures, posters and Water Watcher tags have been provided throughout the state to county health departments (CHDs), Safe Kids organizations and other child-oriented partners as part of the WaterproofFL campaign.

WaterproofFL is Florida’s first statewide pool safety and child drowning prevention campaign, starting in April 2011 with the theme, “Pool Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility,” and emphasizing a multi-faceted approach to child drowning prevention through layers of protection. The layers of protection are supervision, barriers and emergency preparedness. This theme continues this summer and has been expanded to include the need for swim lessons for children ages 5–12.

A toll free number (877) 362-5033, and a website, [www.WaterproofFL.com](http://www.WaterproofFL.com), are resources that provide information and tools for parents, caregivers, pool owners and others on the need for child water safety and teaching the layers of protection necessary to protect Florida’s children from drowning.

For more information, contact Jan Davis at: [Jan.Davis@flhealth.gov](mailto:Jan.Davis@flhealth.gov) or (850) 445-4440, ext. 2729.

**INJURY DATA REPORTS—NEW FACTS SHEETS AVAILABLE!**

* **Injury Data**-The Injury Fact Sheets have been completed! There are 13, six-page fact sheets describing select injury mechanisms and intents in detail. Each fact sheet characterizes the topic using text, tables, graphs and GIS maps to provide knowledge and focus for prevention activities. The fact sheets are available on the Injury Prevention Surveillance web page at: [www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#factsheets](http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#factsheets).
* 1999–2012 injury death and hospitalization, and 2005–2012 emergency department data, customized for specific projects, are available upon request by contacting David Wong at: (850) 245-4440, ext. 2761 or [Tit.Wong@flhealth.gov](mailto:Tit.Wong@flhealth.gov).
* 2005–2011 injury death, hospitalization and emergency department data for each of Florida’s 67 counties are available on the IPP website at: [www.floridahealth.gov/reports-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#profiles](http://www.floridahealth.gov/reports-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#profiles).
* 1970s–2012 injury death data is available on the Florida CHARTS website at: [www.floridacharts.com/FLQUERY/Death/DeathCount.aspx](http://www.floridacharts.com/FLQUERY/Death/DeathCount.aspx).
* 1970–2009 County-level School-Aged Child and Adolescent Profiles, which include injury indicators, are available on the Florida CHARTS website at: [www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1031552](http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1031552).
* 2007–2012 County-level Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles, which include injury indicators, are available on the Florida CHARTS website at: [www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1013450](http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1013450).
* Florida prevalence and trends data, including seat belt prevalence, based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System can be found at: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/page.asp?cat=IN&yr=2012&state=FL#IN>.

**HEALTH INFORMATION & POLICY ANALYSIS PROGRAM**

**EMSTARS**

The Health Information and Policy Analysis Program continues to make great strides with 153 agencies reporting to the EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS), bringing the state repository to over 11.9 million incidents reported.

The program implemented its new data collection system EMSTARS-CDX in July and is currently transitioning agencies to the new system. This new system supports your current submissions of EMSTARS Version 1.4 Data Dictionary files and will begin accepting the EMSTARS Version 3.0 Data Dictionary during the first quarter of 2015 as you are ready to transition to the new standard that was mandated by the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS).

The transition to the new data collection system will take several months to complete all 153 agencies currently submitting and we are doing this in an orderly fashion as to not disrupt your normal business operations. It is anticipated to have all agencies transitioned by mid-December 2014.

The new system will have improved submission, tracking and communications capabilities. Users will have more control over their agency’s administration and user setup. The reporting will be much more advanced than the old EMSTARS system. The bureau is providing webinars on how to access and perform the administrative functions of the new software from each agency’s perspective. Specific web sessions are being provided to agency key users once notified of the transition date. These web sessions will also be made available thru the Department’s Train Florida website in a self-paced format.

Agencies will receive notification of their transition date approximately two weeks before it begins. The migration from one software system to another will only take a day or so. During the transition period, users will be disabled in one system and enabled in the other to setup each agency, submit files, acknowledge files, view submission, etc. We anticipate this to be a smooth transition for you and will work with your agency key users to ensure this.

We are contacting each agency regarding the transition date and look forward to taking this next step in enabling Florida’s transition to the new national standards.

The Health Information and Policy Analysis Program continues to be available for providers to facilitate training and/or implementation assistance as needed. If your agency is interested in receiving assistance with your EMSTARS submissions or transitioning from aggregate data reporting to EMSTARS reporting at this time or in the near future, please contact Brenda Clotfelter at [Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov](mailto:Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov).

The NEMSIS National Reporting System based upon the National EMS Database can be found on the NEMSIS web site ([www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org)) under the Reporting Tools tab (click on “Reports,” then “National Reports” and then “Access Reports”). Follow the directions to access the reports. You will notice Florida’s data is incorporated in the national aggregated reports.

**NEMSIS VERSION 3 UPDATE**

The program staff continues to work in concert with our federal partners, National EMS Information System (NEMSIS), EMS Advisory Council Data Committee, and the EMS community to respond to the changes anticipated with NEMSIS Version 3 subsequent updates. The program staff are working with a third party vendor, Intermedix, which is already NEMSIS certified compliant, to ensure that an appropriate state level implementation approach is used and adequately planned to minimize impact to local EMS provider agencies. The Data Committee and the Health Information and Policy Analysis Program will work with Florida agencies over the next few years as the state transitions to the new standards.

The Florida EMS dataset for Version 3 represents a new version of the Florida EMS dataset and is not a replacement of the current Florida EMS Data Dictionary Version 1.4.1 (NEMSIS Version 2.2.1 compliant). Although NEMSIS has released NEMSIS Version 3, the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) has indicated that they will continue to accept NEMSIS Version 2.2.1 data from states until December 2015 to allow software vendors, states and agencies to implement NEMSIS Version 3.

At this time and until further notification, the state will only accept files that are compliant with the current Florida EMS Data Dictionary Version 1.4.1 (NEMSIS Version 2.2.1 compliant) for agencies reporting to EMSTARS. The EMS agencies who are currently submitting to EMSTARS should not transition to NEMSIS Version 3 software prior to notification from the program staff on the transition/implementation plan. However, EMS agencies participating or that will be participating in EMSTARS should begin discussions with their vendor on their vendor’s implementation approach and timeline for transition to Version 3.

The EMS agencies that are procuring new ePCR (electronic patient care reporting) software should not finalize their negotiations without consultation with the EMSTARS team and are advised not to procure software that will not allow for Florida EMSTARS Version 1.4.1 support until Florida is ready to begin its transition to accept NEMSIS Version 3.

If your agency has questions regarding Version 3, please contact Brenda Clotfelter at [Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov](mailto:Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov)