



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: All EMS Agencies
All Regional Program Directors
All Medical Command Centers

FROM: William D. Ramsey, M.D.
State EMS Medical Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "W.D. Ramsey".

DATE: May 27, 2008

SUBJ: Electronic Patient Care Record

This memo is to provide an update on the status and timeline of the WV Electronic Patient Care Record (EPCR) and to clarify information concerning its implementation and operation.

West Virginia STECS/OEMS has partnered with the EMS Performance Improvement Center (EMSPIC) at the University of North Carolina to utilize the entire EMS Data System currently being used on a statewide basis in North Carolina for almost two years. This system includes the Prehospital Medical Information System (PreMIS) Record collection and storage system as well as a Credentialing Information System (CIS) which provides collection and tracking of EMS personnel and agencies.

We have begun the process of collecting the basic information for CIS which must be loaded before any agencies will be ready to actually collect or submit data to the PreMIS system. We have had several meetings with the EMSPIC folks and are developing the specific guidelines outlining the procedure and timelines for West Virginia's transition to this system.

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Until this master plan is completed, agencies should not call EMSPIC requesting information on training schedules. WVOEMS will advise agencies when the technical support from EMSPIC begins.

It will take two to three months for the information needed to be processed and loaded into the system and the CIS populated. Agencies should be patient and await instructions on how to proceed. You can help make the process run smoother by providing information when requested in a timely manner. We will post update information on the WVOEMS web site so you can remain aware of the status of the project. We have posted Frequently Ask Questions (FAQs) on the WVOEMS web site. Please study them carefully and if you have additional questions you may submit those to the WVOEMS website.

We will be working with a few test agencies to work out issues with the system. Once the system is ready to accept users then we will begin a methodical organized transition of agencies over time. There will also be training conducted on the system as well. This training will not start until after July 1, 2008 and will likely take several months. Agencies will continue to use the paper WVOEMS Patient Care Record until such time as the specific agency has been transitioned to the system. Please note that July 1 is only the beginning of this transition and NOT the date on which all agencies must be transitioned to the system.

Please carefully review the FAQs.

This is an exciting time and this project will greatly improve the ability of the WV EMS System to provide quality care to our citizens.

WDR/nll