

## Begin NOW!

We know the field of emergency care is rapidly requiring electronic patient records. Quality Improvement is just one reason for this transition. Our goal is to assist you in making that transition.

### Step 1:

#### If you currently use existing electronic patient records

- Contact your software vendor to verify gold-compliance or request NEMSIS XML export capability.

### Step 2:

#### Contact us

- Email us at [wemsis@doh.wa.gov](mailto:wemsis@doh.wa.gov) and we will create an account for you and/or your service.
- We will ask you to provide information about yourself. This includes role in service, contact info, etc.
- We may ask you to provide information on your service such as service ID, service info, etc.
- In some cases, to secure the integrity of service accounts, we may require a known sponsor from your service or EMS Region.

### Step 3:

#### Familiarize yourself with WEMSIS

- You will find ImageTrend, the software provider of WEMSIS helpful. They provide support, comprehensive manuals, and training videos.
- Ask us. In many cases, we can assist your transition in using WEMSIS.

**PROVIDING SERVICE  
THROUGH WEMSIS**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is WEMSIS?

The *Washington EMS Information System*, WEMSIS, is the State's prehospital data repository for electronic patient care records (ePCR).

### What prehospital data elements are collected?

WEMSIS is based on a national standard for EMS data collection and reporting, NEMSIS. While specific emphasis is placed on some data elements, WEMSIS has the capacity to store all NEMSIS elements.

### Why use WEMSIS?

Electronic prehospital data collection assists service, county, region, and state efforts to monitor, evaluate, and assess field experiences, patient care, and the EMS system as a whole.

### What does it cost me to participate in WEMSIS?

Access and submission to WEMSIS is free. In many cases, those services already using a vendor to collect electronic data can laterally submit their data to WEMSIS.

### How do I participate in WEMSIS?

WEMSIS is a web based program. We provide many services access to a EMS/Fire Service account to begin collecting data electronically. Other services using their own NEMSIS Gold compliant vendor laterally submit data to WEMSIS. Follow the three steps outlined under Begin NOW!

...continued on inside center.



This publication can be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please call (360.236.2867) for information.

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Participation in WEMSIS supports:

- Description of statewide incidents of medical and injury emergencies.
- Identification of quality improvement measures.
- Evaluation of measures for process and policy improvement.
- Internal and external benchmarking.
- Local and Regional leadership through data competency and evidence based decision making.

Electronic prehospital data gives instant access to existing records. It allows services, counties, and regions to identify best practices and improve EMS response and patient outcomes. Likewise, many services give access to their destination hospitals to enhance the continuity of care.

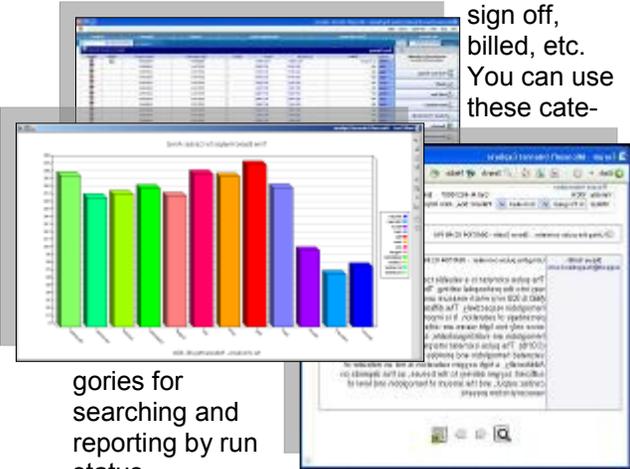
We need your support and participation to ensure our EMS system reflects the spirit of care we aspire to provide.



# Quality Improvement

Quality improvement (QI) exceeds mere data validity testing. It helps promote evidence based decision making. QI and its measures allow evaluation at the local, county, regional, and state level. With appropriate permissions, you can track, review, and comment on rescue service incidents or runs.

- WEMSIS offers several QI reporting tools to quickly review and assess the quality of each run entered.
- To assist your QI process, you can create run status categories to label individual runs as needed. For example, in progress, completed, submitted for review, needs review, reviewed/sign off, billed, etc. You can use these categories for searching and reporting by run status.



- WEMSIS QI allows users reviewing runs to issue a note similar to an email to prompt the intended individual on their next login.
- As WEMSIS carries and supports these notes, there is an unlimited number of notes that can be appended to a single run. This allows multiple users to comment as needed.
- WEMSIS offers run control. You can lock runs from further editing in cases where runs have been submitted or billed. Locking and unlocking runs can be a manual or scheduled task.
- Below are some WEMSIS standard QI report

areas:

- Audits
- Billing
- Response/run time
- Treatments performed
- Intubation performed
- Medication provided
- Procedures conducted
- Runs per month
- Among several others, WEMSIS also supports creating custom reports for your service needs.

# FAQs Continued

...continued from back center.

## Which software vendors are WEMSIS compliant?

All NEMSIS gold-compliant vendors are WEMSIS compliant. However, not all vendors offer the compliance module free of charge. Be sure to ask potential vendors if they require additional fees and costs.

## Can WEMSIS report both EMS and fire data?

Yes. Services around the state are using WEMSIS for both prehospital and NFIRS data collection. The compatibility between WEMSIS and ERS Reporting, the State's repository for NFIRS data, should make laterally submitting data easy.

## How do County MPDs or Destination Hospitals access data in WEMSIS?

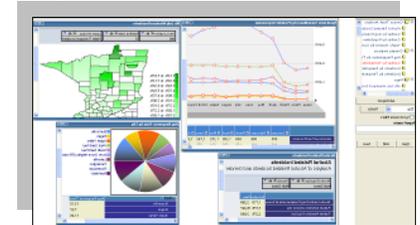
We developed additional access levels to accommodate and enhance such data exchange. A service may create access accounts for their MPD or a destination hospital at any time. Many services are currently benefiting from such partnerships in data exchange.

# PROVIDING SERVICE THROUGH WEMSIS

# Data Analysis

ImageTrend offers other reporting tools to allow visual reporting not normally achieved with conventional report generation methods.

- With these tools, you can analyze data in different views with multiple relationships. It also allows for dragging and dropping of columns, rearranging of data views, data drill-down while creating dynamic charts and graphs.
- This gives the user flexibility in how to view and analyze data.
- You can use data analysis to identify trends, make predictions, and perform assessments.
- Data can be readily exported for portability and reporting in Microsoft Excel.



# Security

## Application Securities

- Secure user login
- Password encryption
- Password requirements
- Login expirations
- Page access checking
- SSL server certificate
- User status (active / inactive)
- Individual challenge questions

## User Securities

- View / block patient identifiable information
- Staff runs restriction
- Access to run report
- Export security