



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

MEMORANDUM

TO: SC EMS Agencies
SC EMS Medical Control Physicians
SC Regional EMS Directors

From: Alonzo W. Smith, Director

Date: March 26, 2009

RE: SC EMS Electronic Data Submission

In 2007, the Department of Health and Environmental Control was awarded a grant from the Duke Endowment to improve the Emergency Medical Services System in South Carolina by transitioning from paper-based patient care reports to an electronic reporting system known as the SC EMS Data System. As you are aware, the Department has been encouraging all agencies to begin enrollment and submission of electronic data into the SC EMS Data System. Once populated, the SC EMS Data System will provide critical information for EMS Agencies and the Department to conduct needs assessments and benchmarking.

Today, the Department is facing two challenges. First, the enrollment of EMS Agencies is not progressing as we had planned. Secondly, recent budget cuts are forcing the Department to find more efficient ways to provide regulatory oversight for Emergency Medical Services. To address these concerns the Department finds it necessary to implement the following:

1. Beginning January 1, 2010, the Department will not accept or provide paper run reports. This action will reduce staff time and the cost of printed materials.
2. Licensed transporting EMS Agencies not submitting electronic patient report data after December 31, 2009 will be deemed in non-compliance with Regulation 61-7, Section 1302.A and the Department will initiate appropriate action which may include a monetary penalty.

Future enhancement and maintenance of the data system may provide funding opportunities to EMS Agencies to address critical needs. Compliance history associated with reporting requirements may be a prerequisite for EMS Agency funding. I encourage all EMS Agencies that may wish to be considered for future funding to comply with the electronic reporting requirement.

For information related to enrollment contact the EMSPIC at (866) 773-6477 or visit www.scemsdata.org. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section on the data website provides detailed instructions and training materials on how to enroll in the SC EMS Data System. If you have compliance questions or need assistance, please contact Ms. Jennifer Paddock at (803) 545-4569.