Retrieving Hospital Outcomes

Oregon EMS Data System

Introduction

EMS agencies in Oregon submit their patient care reports (PCRs) to a state system managed by the Oregon Health Authority. If a patient is transported, EMS personnel record the destination to which they transported when they complete their PCR. When the state system receives a PCR, it makes it available to the hospital listed as the destination in the PCR. (Timely PCR completion and submission to the state system is critical for the exchange of patient information.) Hospital staff can use the state system to retrieve PCRs for all patients delivered to their hospital and record hospital outcome information. Also, hospital trauma registrars can access and import PCR information in the Oregon Trauma Registry, which sends hospital outcome information to the EMS data system. The EMS data system makes outcome information available to the EMS agency that submitted the PCR.
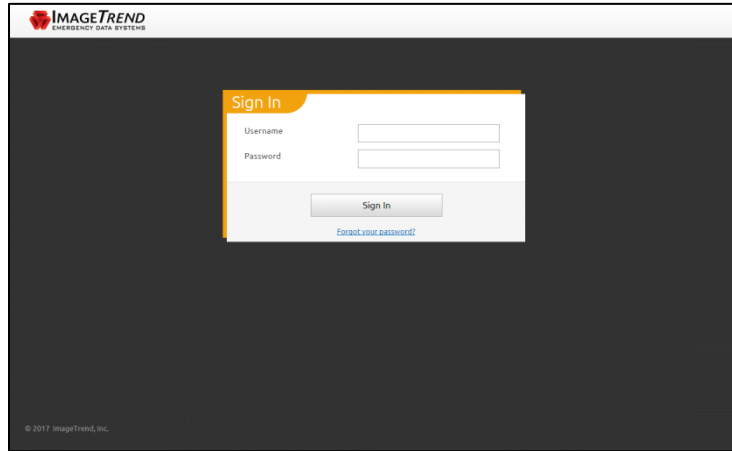
These features are provided by the state system and are free of charge to all EMS agencies and hospitals, regardless of what product an agency uses locally for patient care reporting.

This guide shows EMS agency staff how to use the state system to retrieve hospital outcome information for PCRs that they have submitted to the state system. This guide applies to PCRs created using the NEMSIS version 3 data standard. For questions, please contact Nathan Jarrett at the Oregon Health Authority, nathan.jarrett@state.or.us or 971-673-0527.

Accessing the State EMS Reporting System

The state uses ImageTrend Elite™ as the state repository for NEMSIS version 3 PCRs submitted by EMS agencies. Regardless of what software you use to create PCRs and submit them to the state, the state system is available free of charge to all EMS agencies. Agencies do not need to purchase or install any software to use it. EMS agency staff can access the state system at this location:
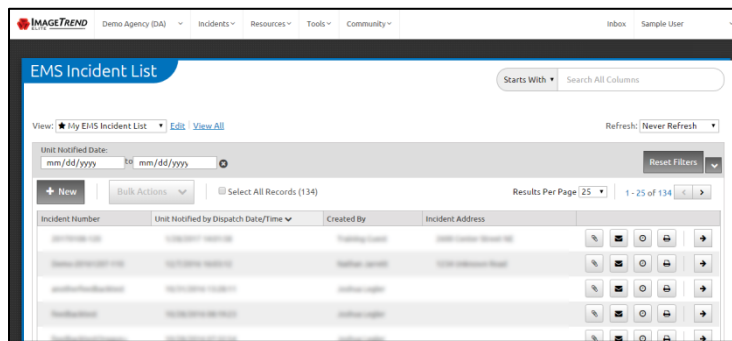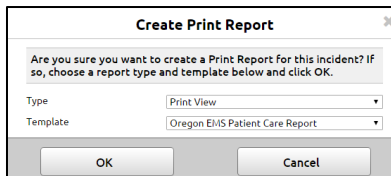
If you don't have access to ImageTrend Elite, and you don't know of anyone in your agency who does, please contact Nathan Jarrett at the Oregon Health Authority.

Retrieving Hospital Outcomes for a Specific PCR

You can view hospital outcomes (if they have been reported by the hospital) for a specific PCR by first finding that PCR. To find a PCR, select "Incidents" and then "View Existing: EMS." You should see a list of recent PCRs.

You can use the search options to refine your search. Once you have found the PCR, select the Print button ( ). Select a report type and a template (the "Oregon EMS Patient Care Report" template is the one designed by the state) and select "OK."
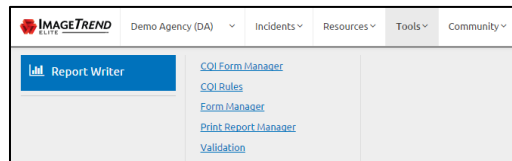
A printable version of the PCR will be shown in a new window. Hospital outcomes, if reported for the PCR, will be shown in the "Outcomes" section of the Report.
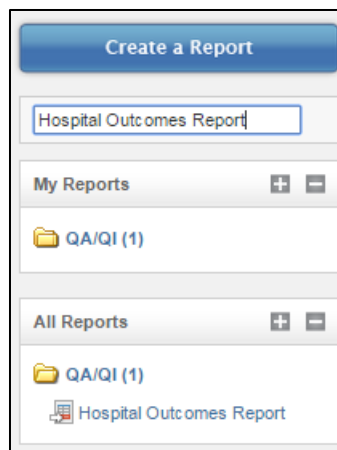

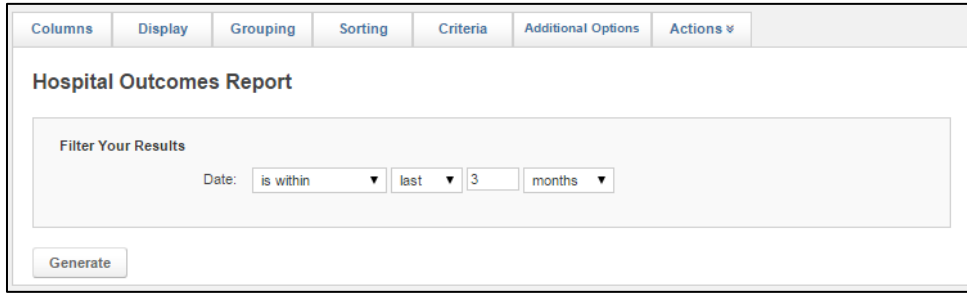## Retrieving Hospital Outcomes for Multiple PCRs

If you wish to retrieve hospital outcomes for many PCRs, it may be too tedious to view the Print Report for each PCR. Instead, you can view a summary report that lists hospital outcomes for multiple PCRs. To do so, first access the Report Writer by selecting "Tools" in the system menu and then "Report Writer."

In the Report Writer, use the Search box to search for "Hospital Outcomes Report" or expand the "QA/QI" folder to find the Hospital Outcomes Report.
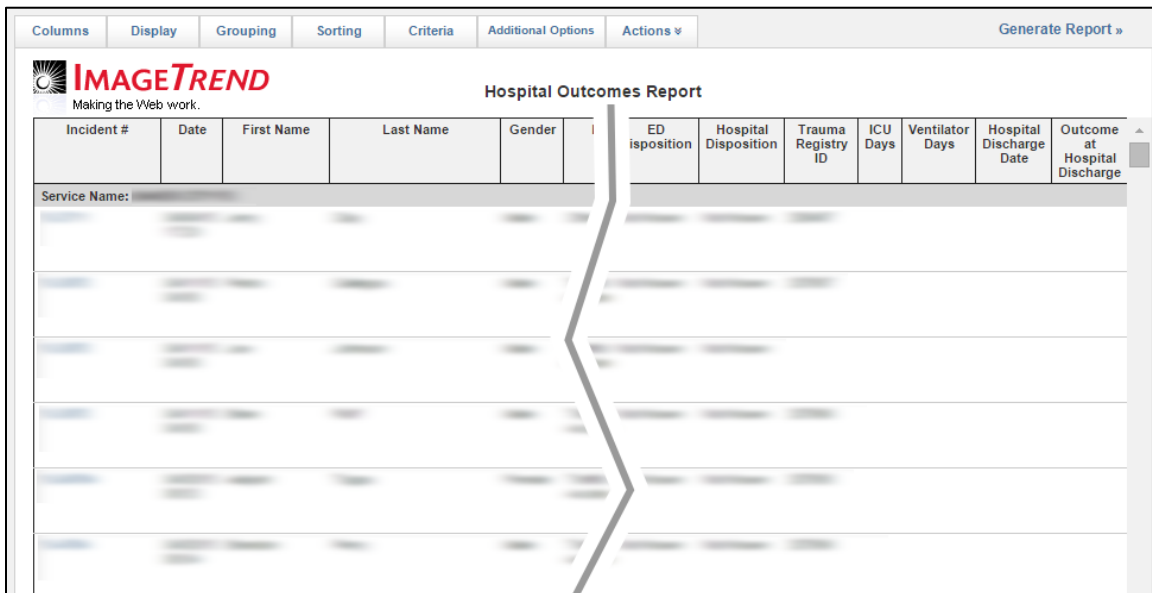
Select the Hospital Outcomes Report. A prompt will ask for a date range.

Provide your desired date range criteria and then select "Generate."

The report includes only those PCRs for which hospital outcome information has been reported. It contains key EMS information about each PCR, followed by hospital outcome information. To view the PCR for a record, select the incident number for that record.

You can use "Actions" to export the report in various formats or add it to your "My Reports" menu for easy future access.

Reporting Hospital Outcomes

Hospital outcome information is collected and made available to agencies via the following methods:

Oregon Trauma Registry

For injured patients who are included in the Oregon Trauma Registry, trauma registrars import information from your PCRs into their trauma records; then, when they finalize their trauma records, the trauma registry sends hospital outcome information back to the EMS data system.

Hospital Hub

Hospital staff can use the state EMS data system to report hospital outcomes. If the hospitals to which you transport are not reporting hospital outcome information, talk with them about doing so. If hospital staff have questions about how to report the hospital outcome information, please refer them to Nathan Jarrett at the Oregon Health Authority to obtain a guide similar to this one but for hospitals.

Privacy and Disclosure

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule (45 CFR 164.506) states that a covered entity may, without the patient's authorization, disclose protected health information to another covered entity for certain health care operation activities of the entity that receives the information if:

A. Each entity either has or had a relationship with the individual who is the subject of the information, and the protected health information pertains to the relationship; and
B. The disclosure is for a quality-related health care operations activity defined in 45 CFR 164.501.

HIPAA also states that a covered entity must develop policies and procedures that reasonably limit its disclosures of, and requests for, protected health information for payment and health care operations to the minimum necessary.

Oregon has implemented processes in the EMS data system and trauma registry to ensure the appropriate disclosure of protected health information between EMS agencies and hospitals.

Conclusion

Your participation in Oregon's EMS data system ensures that the hospitals to which you transport have ready access to your PCRs along with the PCRs of other agencies in one system. Access to EMS PCRs helps hospitals to provide better patient care and supports their quality assurance and performance improvement efforts.

In return, hospital staff have the ability to report hospital outcomes back to EMS for patients that have been delivered to their hospital. EMS agencies can retrieve the hospital outcome information via the state system, regardless of what software they used to create the original PCR. Hospital outcome information helps your EMS agency's quality assurance and performance improvement efforts.