Oregon Emergency Medical Services Information Systems (OR-EMSIS)
interim data collection guidelines for COVID-19 documentation

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Oregon Health Authority Emergency Medical Services has adopted changes to the electronic patient care report (ePCR). Data collected by first responders and medical staff will assist local, state, and national decision makers to protect public health during the crisis. This document provides guidelines for charting in OR-EMSIS, including changes to the required and recommended data fields for the ePCR. Contact information and additional COVID-19 information resources are also included.

For guidance on transport of possible COVID-19 patients see the interim guidance issued by the OHA & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:

COVID-19 Healthcare Partner Resources

OR-EMSIS updates (03/25/2020)

The following NEMSIS standard data elements not previously requested by Oregon should be enabled and reported:

- eVitals.24 - Temperature
- eOther.03 - Personal Protective Equipment Used
- eOther.04 - EMS Professional (Crew Member) ID
- eOther.05 - Suspected EMS Work-Related Exposure, Injury, or Death
- eOther.06 - The Type of Work-Related Injury, Death or Suspected Exposure

The following codes should be enabled in these data elements:

- eHistory.08 - Medical/Surgical History
  - B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
  - Z20.9 - Contact with and (suspected) exposure to unspecified communicable disease
- eProcedures.03 - Procedure
  - 409528009 - Surgical face mask (for all license levels)

Additionally, the following NEMSIS standard and Oregon required data elements call for special attention when treating/transporting patients with respiratory and/or fever symptoms during the current crisis:

- eSituation.09 & eSituation.10 – Primary Symptom and Other Associated Symptoms
- eSituation.11 & eSituation.12 – Provider’s Primary and Secondary Impressions
- eNarrative.01 – Patient Care Report Narrative
OR-EMSIS update detailed guidance

**eSituation.09 and eSituation.10 – Primary and Other Associated Symptoms**

Use these fields to record all relevant symptoms\(^1\) such as R50.9 Fever, unspecified, R05 Cough, or R06.02 Shortness of Breath. These data will assist in identifying the ways that patients later confirmed to be COVID-19 cases might present to EMS personnel (see sidebar example symptoms).

**eSituation.11 and eSituation.12 – Provider’s Primary and Secondary Impressions**

Reserve use of this field to record conditions that you can confirm in the field, such as J18.9 Pneumonia, J21.9 Acute bronchitis, or J80 Acute respiratory distress syndrome.

**eHistory.08 – Medical/Surgical History**

We will be activating the following ICD-10 codes for use in the medical history field:

- **B97.29** – Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
- **Z20.9** – Contact with and (suspected) exposure to unspecified communicable disease

Only use the code B97.29 for cases of COVID-19 confirmed by test. Use the Z20.9 code for patients that are reported to have had contact with a presumed or confirmed case.

Special note: when documenting patient’s recent exposures, include details of possible exposure due to travel (domestic and international) in the narrative.

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\(^1\) CDC symptoms guidelines
**eNarrative.01 – Patient Care Report Narrative**

Use the narrative field to note suspected cases. Use the keyword “COVID-19” in your narrative so that suspected cases may be identified in the data.

**eVitals.24 – Temperature**

Record temperature along with other patient vitals regardless of fever indication for all cases involving cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, flu-like symptoms or other respiratory illness.

**eProcedures.03 – Procedure**

Currently the CDC recommends placing a face mask on patients presenting cough, or any combination of other COVID-19 symptoms. Document the SNOMED physical object code 409528009 for Surgical face mask.

**eDisposition.24 – Destination Team Pre-Arrival Alert or Activation**

Use this field to document if you are transporting a suspected, presumed or confirmed COVID-19 patient and notify the destination hospital prior to arrival. Choose “Yes – Other” and include the term “COVID-19” in the narrative.

**eOther.03 – Personal Protective Equipment Used**

EMS should record Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as respirator or mask, eye protection, and gloves, used by each crew member using this field. Currently, the CDC recommends use of gowns[^2] in addition to other PPE when treating suspected, presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19. ImageTrend will be implementing gown as a custom value for users of the state system. If your agency uses a third-party vendor and “gown” is not an option, use “other” and specify “gown” in narrative.

[^2]: CDC guidelines for PPE

**Procedures for donning and doffing PPE (with gown)**
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npt1/pdfs/PPE-Sequence-508.pdf
eOther.04 – EMS Professional (Crew Member) ID

Adding this field allows for documentation of PPE and exposure information for each crew member, rather than for the entire crew. Use crew member full names or license ID (as opposed to a generic role such as “EMT” or “paramedic”) so possible exposure notifications can go to specific individuals if necessary.

eOther.05 – Suspected EMS Work-Related Exposure, Injury, or Death

This is a binary field with choices of “Yes” or “No”. Like PPE, document for each crew member rather than for the overall crew.

eOther.06 – The Type of Work-Related Injury, Death or Suspected Exposure

This is a multi-select field that allows for specifying potential exposures during patient care. Like PPE, this should be documented for each crew member rather than for the overall crew.

Travel

Custom elements related to recent travel history are currently being developed by the NEMSIS TAC. Oregon EMS & Trauma will be activating these custom elements in OR-EMSIS as they become available and issuing revised guidance. In the meantime, record relevant recent travel information in the narrative (eNarrative.01 – Patient Care Report Narrative).

Contact

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems at EMS.TRAUMA@dhsoha.state.or.us

Additional Information and Resources

For general information on COVID-19 in Oregon, call 211

Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Updates page:
https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Clinical Criteria:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Coding guidance:
### Oregon EMS COVID-19 Guidance Quick Reference (Updated 3/25/2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Guidance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eSituation.09 &amp;</td>
<td>Primary Symptom and Other Associated Symptoms</td>
<td>Required. Special attention when treating/transporting patients with</td>
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<tr>
<td>eSituation.10</td>
<td></td>
<td>respiratory and/or fever symptoms. Record all relevant symptoms such as</td>
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<td>contact with a presumed or confirmed case.</td>
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<tr>
<td>eNarrative.01</td>
<td>Patient Care Report Narrative</td>
<td>Required. Include keyword &quot;COVID-19&quot; for suspected cases and record any</td>
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<td>PPE not documented elsewhere.</td>
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<td>eVitals.24</td>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
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<td>eProcedures.03</td>
<td>Procedure</td>
<td>SNOMED Material Code 409528009 - Surgical face mask activated for all</td>
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<td>license levels</td>
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<td>Destination Team Pre-Arrival Alert or Activation</td>
<td>If you notify the destination hospital prior to arrival. Choose “Yes –</td>
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<td>eOther.03</td>
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<td></td>
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