



NEMSIS 3.5 Transition Frequently Asked Questions

What are the changes in the NEMSIS 3.5 update to the data standard?

The change from NEMSIS 3.4 to 3.5 is a minor update. At a very high level the changes to the data standard are as follows:

- Incident/Patient Disposition (eDisposition.12) will be broken out into Unit Disposition (eDisposition.27), Patient Evaluation/Care (eDisposition.28), Crew Disposition (eDisposition.29), and Transport Disposition (eDisposition.30) elements.
- Creation and deployment of defined Lists (Symptoms, Impressions, Cause of Injury, Medications, Procedures) to be developed by an expert panel representing EMS clinical, operational, and billing perspectives.
- Validation rules will be updated to reflect the changes to data elements.
- A Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) will be introduced to support integration with other healthcare data.

For a more detailed accounting of specific data standard changes watch this [video presentation](#).

While the NEMSIS 3.5 update is minor compared to the move from NEMSIS 2 to NEMSIS 3, it is still important to understand the changes and ensure that your EMS reporting—and everything that depends on it—works correctly when you make the switch.

What is the timeline for statewide transition to NEMSIS 3.5?

NEMSIS 3.5 transition for Oregon agencies must meet the following timeline:

- The first agencies will transition to NEMSIS 3.5 in November 2022.
- Our current goal is to have 90% of agencies transitioned to NEMSIS 3.5 by October 2023.
- All agencies must be transitioned by the end of 2023.

Does the state of Oregon have resources for Agencies going through transition to NEMSIS 3.5?

Resources are available. For more information about NEMSIS 3.5 and the Oregon implementation plan:

- NEMSIS 3.5 Transition Checklists:

- [State ImageTrend Elite System](#)
- [Other ePCR Systems](#)
- [Oregon NEMSIS 3.5 Transition Fact Sheet](#)
- [NEMSIS 3.5 Transition Overview Webinar](#)
- [NEMSIS 3.5 Data Dictionary](#)
- [Oregon's NEMSIS 3.5 technical resources \(State Data Set, Validation Rules\)](#)
- A resource on creating custom forms in Elite is under development

I am using the ImageTrend Elite system provided by Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems. Is there anything my agency needs to do, or will the system be automatically updated?

Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems Program is working to make the transition as smooth as possible for users of the state system. State resources have been updated and forms and validation rules for 3.5 have been configured in the system. Testing of 3.5 capabilities is under way. However, there are a number of things that we are not able to do for your agency. You will need to do the following:

- Update your agency information in ImageTrend Elite to report a complete set of agency demographic data.
- If your agency has created a custom ePCR form(s) in Elite, they will not update automatically when the state form changes. You will need to create a new custom NEMSIS 3.5 form. We recommend that you start fresh with the state NEMSIS 3.5 form and make your changes from there so that your new form is NEMSIS 3.5 compliant.
- If your agency uses custom built reports in Report Writer that draw on data elements that are changing in NEMSIS 3.5 (disposition, cardiac arrest, exams) these will need to be updated to reflect the new data standard.
- Work with ImageTrend and vendors to update any integrations your agency currently uses (CAD, billing, fax etc.).
- Work with Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems Program to resolve any issues with your demographic and ePCR data.

What is needed for the NEMSIS 3.5 transition, and what needs to be done on my end?

Everything your agency needs to do to transition to NEMSIS 3.5 is outlined in one of these two checklists. Choose the one for your Agency based on whether you use the state ImageTrend Elite system, or your own ePCR software (including your own ImageTrend Elite instance):

- [State ImageTrend Elite System](#)
- [Other ePCR Systems](#)

How much time will it take to complete the transition for agency personnel?

The transition can happen in an afternoon, or it can take much longer. It depends on several factors:

- The response time of your agency to resolve issues with demographic or ePCR data.
- If you use a 3rd party ePCR vendor, the response time of your vendor to resolve issues with demographic or ePCR data.
- Whether you want to use a custom form or will be using the state forms.

Is there anything we need to do to ensure uninterrupted export of data to our billing software vendor as we transition to NEMSIS 3.5?

Yes, inform your billing software vendor that NEMSIS 3.5 changes are coming and ensure that your vendor updates their processes for pulling the correct data. If they need support in preparing for the transition, please contact Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems Program.

I don't know when my vendor is going to be ready to transition.

Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems Program has been communicating with vendors to understand their timelines for transition to NEMSIS 3.5. Here is what we know:

- GMR MEDS – TBD.
- HealthEMS – Planning to transition Oregon customers in the 1st quarter of 2023
- First on Scene – Planning to transition Oregon customers starting in October 2023
- Zoll – Planning to transition Oregon customers starting in November 2022.
- EMSCharts – Planning to transition Oregon customers starting in November 2022.
- AngelTrack – Planning to transition Oregon customers starting in November 2022.
- Emergency Reporting – Not recertifying the product for NEMSIS 3.5. All Emergency Reporting customers will be transitioned to the ESO ePCR product first, and then to NEMSIS 3.5 in the 1st quarter of 2023.
- ESO – Planning to transition all Oregon customers in January 2023.

Contact your vendor for details.

My agency uses Emergency Reporting. Why am I having to change software and upgrade to NEMSIS 3.5?

Emergency Reporting was purchased by ESO, and ESO has decided not to update the Emergency Reporting software to support NEMSIS 3.5. You can continue using Emergency Reporting to report NEMSIS 3.4 data to the state until you switch to a NEMSIS 3.5-compliant product. NEMSIS 3.5 transition deadlines still apply and your agency must be able to submit NEMSIS 3.5 data by the end of 2023.

My agency will need some support with the transition to NEMSIS 3.5 as we do not have an IT department or a designated IT employee. What support can we expect from Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems?

Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems has developed checklists, resources, and videos linked in this FAQ to support the transition. We have also contracted with Joshua Legler, a national expert in NEMSIS data, to assist each agency through the transition. If you have responded to the [NEMSIS 3.5 transition poll](#), Josh will contact you prior to your requested transition date.

My agency uses custom ePCR forms in the state ImageTrend Elite System. Is there anything I need to do to update my forms for NEMSIS 3.5?

If you want to recreate your custom form, it is recommended that you save a copy of the state form and make your changes to it. By making a saved copy, your agency does not overwrite and potentially lose forms already created. Furthermore, starting with a copy of the state form ensures that your new form collects all the new NEMSIS 3.5 data elements.

Can we use the state form for ePCR, or will we have to rebuild the one we have?

Yes, you can always switch to the state form, and we have updated those forms for the NEMSIS 3.5 transition already. These new forms will be visible to your agency when it is time to transition to 3.5.

Will this affect the ImageTrend Elite Field application on iPads or other devices?

Yes and no. Field will change to use the new NEMSIS 3.5 forms, but it will continue to work in the same way, and there should be no interruption of service.

Is there any potential to lose data for our organization?

No. This update will not involve changing the software platform for OR-EMSIS. If you are reporting to OR-EMSIS before NEMSIS 3.5 transition, and you continue reporting after, there will be a complete set of records for your agency. If your agency uses a 3rd party ePCR software product and you choose to change vendors, you will need to negotiate with your vendors to ensure a smooth transition and transfer of data.

Will I have to recreate department specific EMS or Fire reports in Report Writer?

If you have reports that use the data elements or values that are changing, you may need to update these reports for NEMSIS 3.5. For example, if you have a report that uses the Incident/Patient Disposition data element, you will need to modify the report to use the NEMSIS 3.5 disposition elements. You can watch a video that outlines the complete list of elements that are changing [here](#).

Will the switch effect my personnel that work for other agencies? Will we have to regain access to the other agencies that we work for?

The NEMSIS 3.5 changes will not impact your personnel that work for other agencies. This data standard update will not involve changing to a new software platform for OR-EMSIS. All permissions and agency affiliations will remain the same.

What system would be best suited for our small rural agency?

For small agencies, the State ImageTrend Elite System is always an option. Agencies sometimes think that it must not be very good because it is free. That is not the case. OR-EMSIS is housed in a fully featured ImageTrend Elite ePCR platform and can be used for both EMS and NFIRs reporting. Furthermore, you can customize your forms and tools within the platform, purchase additional modules that the state does not provide (like community paramedicine or billing), and even create custom validation rules for your agency (for a small fee to ImageTrend). As an added bonus, if you do decide to switch, Oregon EMS & Trauma is doing the heavy lifting to prepare the state system for NEMSIS 3.5, so the transition will be easier.

What are the consequences of non-compliance?

Reporting to OR-EMSIS is required by statute and rule for licensed transporting agencies (reference [ORS 682.056 \(1\)\(a\)](#) and [OAR 333-250-0310](#)). OR- EMSIS will be accepting NEMSIS 3.4 data until December 31, 2023. After that date all agencies must be transitioned to NEMSIS 3.5.