

To: All Ambulance, ALS FR and BLS FR Services in the Wyoming-Erie Region
From: Scott Wander, EMS Director
Date: February 18, 2021
Re: The ePCR Requirement Explained and Guidance Moving Forward

UBMD Emergency Medicine EMS Division is the contracted NYS EMS Program Agency for the Wyoming-Erie Region. One of our contract deliverables is to be a resource and oversee/manage/support EMS data (PCR data) logistics for the region. For services who utilize the NYS paper PCR, this is when you send the “yellow” copies of your PCRs to us each month.

For good reason, NYS needs to move toward electronic patient data. There are many other benefits to electronic patient data (surveillance, patient outcome data, quality metrics, etc.). It is also reasonable to anticipate states will be required to submit electronic EMS data to the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) to qualify for Federal “EMS funding”. Think of this like the seatbelt law from many years ago...states were not required to have a seatbelt law, but if they did not have one by a certain date, the state would not be eligible for highway dollars.

“So what was this notice we got from NYS requiring everyone to switch to ePCR by March 31 in the middle of a pandemic?”

The answer is simple: there is no requirement to switch to ePCR by March 31.

The UBMD EMS Division has remained in contact with the Bureau of EMS since the notice was promulgated a couple weeks ago. There are MANY moving parts and we have advocated for a more responsible approach.

No agency is going to be “shut down” or “thrown out” of the CME program if you are not electronic by March 31. The requirement remains unchanged; if you are in the CME Recertification Program you must submit PCR data electronically to NYS by January 2022.

IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS!

1. **DO NOT** complete and submit a NYS DOH 5136 (ePCR application) **UNLESS** you are ready to “go live” with an ePCR system. In general, this would be the case only if you had been working with an ePCR vendor long before the NYS notice came out a couple weeks ago.
2. If you intend to use the NYS ePCR portal to meet the electronic requirement, **SIT TIGHT FOR NOW**. In the very near future, there will be informational seminars to better explain the system. We will also detail EXACTLY what your agency needs to do to participate. **PLEASE...do not blindly submit a DOH-5136 to us without know what is involved.** This is a rather big change that has many logistics for you to consider. We will work with you to ensure compliance and sustainability moving forward.

Please call or email with questions: (716) 898-3600 ubmdems@buffalo.edu