



# OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Notice

### Clarification of Goals and Purposes of EMS Data Collection through MATRIS

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July 22, 2013

The Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is currently undergoing review as part of an ongoing effort to improve the Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality's capacity and structure, and to better meet the needs of ambulance services, training institutions, EMTs and those patients we all serve. Part of this review includes the Massachusetts Ambulance Trip Record Information System (MATRIS).

The primary purpose of EMS data collection is for the improvement and support of EMS systems, research and delivery of quality patient care. Only through collecting reliable, comprehensive, valid data from Massachusetts ambulance services can the Department, ambulance services, and EMS Medical Directors work collectively to assess the quality of care being delivered to our patients with the fundamental objective of quality improvement.

The Department has found the MATRIS data helpful for policy development relative to regulatory changes, Statewide Treatment Protocols and training development, but we can do more. MATRIS data has been accompanied with supporting data from hospitals, post acute facilities, and other sources to facilitate informed decisions to significantly affect improvements in policy, education and research, including but not limited to the groups working on projects in such areas as stroke, STEMI, trauma, particularly motor vehicle fatalities. We need to better support these groups by providing them with better information.

During a review of the MATRIS system, OEMS was made aware of concerns regarding such issues as data use and submission requirements. The Department is continuing to work with services to resolve such concerns and assure services and providers that the data use is intended for general trend analysis, EMS statistics and policy development, and is not intended to be a mechanism for identifying individual or service compliance issues. Through collaborative efforts with ambulance services and physicians, the Department intends to use MATRIS data to improve and enhance the quality of EMS systems and the delivery of high quality medical care.

OEMS will continue efforts to determine the current and future data needs of the healthcare community, so that we may transition the MATRIS system to be an effective and powerful EMS advocacy tool for EMS into the future. The first iteration of this system has been a powerful tool for research, but has also had some difficulties, especially in the area of statewide deployment, which we are committed to resolve.



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Thank you for your continued efforts towards fulfilling our collective goal of providing high quality services to all the Commonwealth's residents and visitors. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Jamie.Pianka@state.ma.us](mailto:Jamie.Pianka@state.ma.us) .